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JULY 2000

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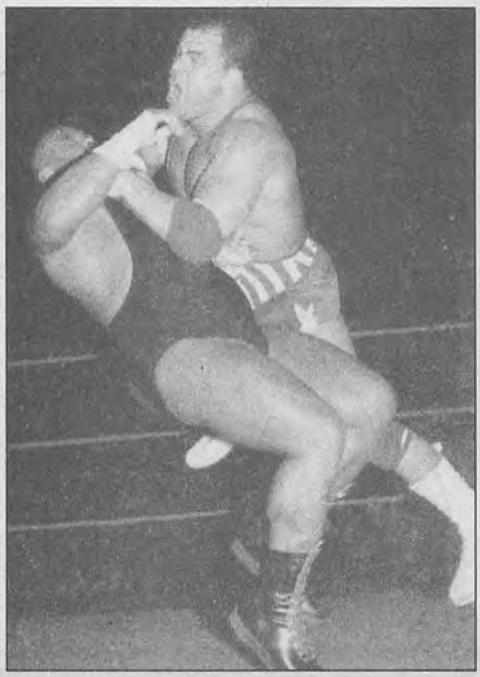

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Sincerely Yours

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COMPUTER COMPETITION

I guess that the computer you used to simulate "The Y2K INSIDE WRESTLING Computer Tournament" (April 2000) wasn't the finest piece of machinery. If it was, there's no way Goldberg would have been able to make it all the way to the finals.

Goldberg would have been eliminated in the first round by another former WCW World champ, Vader. Even though he recently lost the All-Japan Triple Crown to Kenta Kobashi, there is no one in the sport today who is as dominant as Vader is. He is running through every wrestler put in his path, and he's collecting titles like it's his job. And he would destroy the injury-riddled Goldberg—that's for sure.

MIKE WALSH
Putnam, CT

The fact that Bill Goldberg (kicking Bret Hart) advanced to the finals of "The Y2K INSIDE WRESTLING Computer Tournament" didn't please reader Mike Walsh. He believes Vader would have eliminated "Da Man."

I cannot believe your computer did something so ridiculous as to pick Scott Hall as the winner of a seven-match series with Mankind, and at a final tally of four matches to one!

The computer that did this must be an old and dusty hunk of garbage. Heck, it probably still takes those ancient 5 x 5 floppy disks.

Mankind would absolutely kill Hall, and if your computer couldn't see that, it should be retired.

JOHN TENNANT
East Orange, NJ

Great job on the computer tournament, guys. I have a feeling that because it was the INSIDE WRESTLING staffers who designed the program, there may have been some flaws, but whenever you get a final matchup of Bill Goldberg vs. The Rock, how can anyone complain?

I particularly liked how the computer knew all the wrestlers' strengths, weaknesses, and offensive repertoires. If WCW, the WWF, and ECW could somehow let their talent compete in a tournament of all tournaments, I'm sure the results would be exactly as the INSIDE WRESTLING computer predicted.

BILL FINCH
Washington, D.C.

NO SAND(MAN) STORM

I've been pretty disappointed in The Sandman since his return to ECW.

Sandman used to be one of the promotion's major players, but since he's been back, he has really been nothing but an underling to Tommy Dreamer and

Sandman is back in ECW, but according to reader Shawn Bunker, he's not the Sandman of old. Bunker wants to see "The Hardcore Icon" on top once again.

Dusty Rhodes and fodder for Rhino.

I don't know if Sandman's time in WCW soured him on the sport, but he is back to being a hardcore icon in a hardcore promotion. It's time that he shows that he is still the king of hardcore.

SHAWN BUNKER
Glascow, WV

INDY INQUIRY

I'm just wondering, with all the great independent wrestlers out there today, why doesn't WCW pick some of them up?

Guys like Michael Modest, Christopher Daniels, Ty Street, and Shane Hooker would improve the in-ring quality of WCW almost immediately, and while they continue to wow crowds at independent shows across the country, WCW founders.

I'm glad to see that WCW has given guys like Devon Storm (Crowbar), Shannon Moore, and Shane Helms a chance, and it's nice to see that they've made good on their opportunities. Now it's time for WCW to bring some more guys up.

KRISTINA PINE
Aztec, NM

ONLY A DREAM

It's amazing to think about what ECW could have been if it would have had the proper financial backing from the get-go. Guys like Steve Austin, Mick Foley, Chris Jericho, Chris Benoit, Dean Malenko, Eddy Guerrero, Shane Douglas, Bam Bam Bigelow, Terry Funk, Sid Vicious, Rey Misterio Jr., Konnan, Tazz, and The Dudley Boyz might have never left.

If Paul Heyman had been able to keep those guys around, imagine how strong ECW would be right now. Of course, if all those guys had stuck it out in ECW, guys like Mike Awesome, Rob Van Dam, Justin Credible, and Lance Storm might have never had the chance to blossom into the prime-time players they are

(Continued on page 72)

Christopher Daniels (clotheslining Jeff Peterson) is one of the finest independent wrestlers in the sport. Reader Kristina Pine wonders why WCW hasn't scooped up Daniels or other talented indy wrestlers.

Inside Wrestling

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REPORTER'S NOTEBOOK

By Stu Saks

Terry Taylor is a man who is worthy of my admiration. Most fans don't think much of him. They see him as little more than a mouthpiece for the WCW Executive Board who does little more than get out-talked by the federations's loudmouths and out-muscled by the federation's bullies. He always seems to come up short. That, in their eyes, is the definition of a loser.

Terry Taylor is anything but a loser. He's been a champion in and out of the ring, and most of all, he has a love for the sport that a guitar to the head or some spray paint on his back cannot diminish. He could choose to remain one of those anonymous WCW suits who hands down rulings and hides in his office, but that's not Taylor. His office is the arena. He's the one speed-walking through the backstage area at WCW events, a man on a mission with no time to greet well-wishers or even crack a smile.

Unlike some others in WCW, Taylor has not given up the fight to bring WCW back into the war with the WWF. He has been to the other side, seen what he needed to see, and come back. Taylor wants to make things work, and if he's not able to get things done in one area of the company, he'll move to a spot where he can. But it's when he's not doing for WCW that I find him most fascinating.

Sometimes, he needs to put his administrative duties aside and just do for Terry Taylor. So he pampers himself by donning the tights and competing with men half his age in the NWA. "I keep myself in very good shape, and I still feel the need to compete," he said. "And the beauty of wrestling in sanctioned matches is that it's one-on-one, me against my opponent. No swinging guitars, no NWO thugs. It's not easy, but I can honestly say it's fun."

It wasn't much fun for The Colorado Kid, who was beaten by Taylor for the NWA North American title last November 6. "At first it was a little embarrassing," said Kid, "but I learned quite a bit in that match. This guy must have been special in his day."

Indeed he was. Seventeen years ago, Taylor won his first major title when he beat Ted DiBiase for the Mid-South North American title. He was also a holder of the Mid-South TV title, the UWF tag team title (with Chris Adams), a two-time UWF TV champion, and co-holder of the WCW six-man tag team title (with Rick Morton and Tommy Rich).

Taylor lost the NWA North American title back to Colorado Kid on December 25, but that certainly did not ruin his Christmas. "Losing used to make me crazy," he said, "but by age 44, you gain a new perspective on life."

And he smiled.

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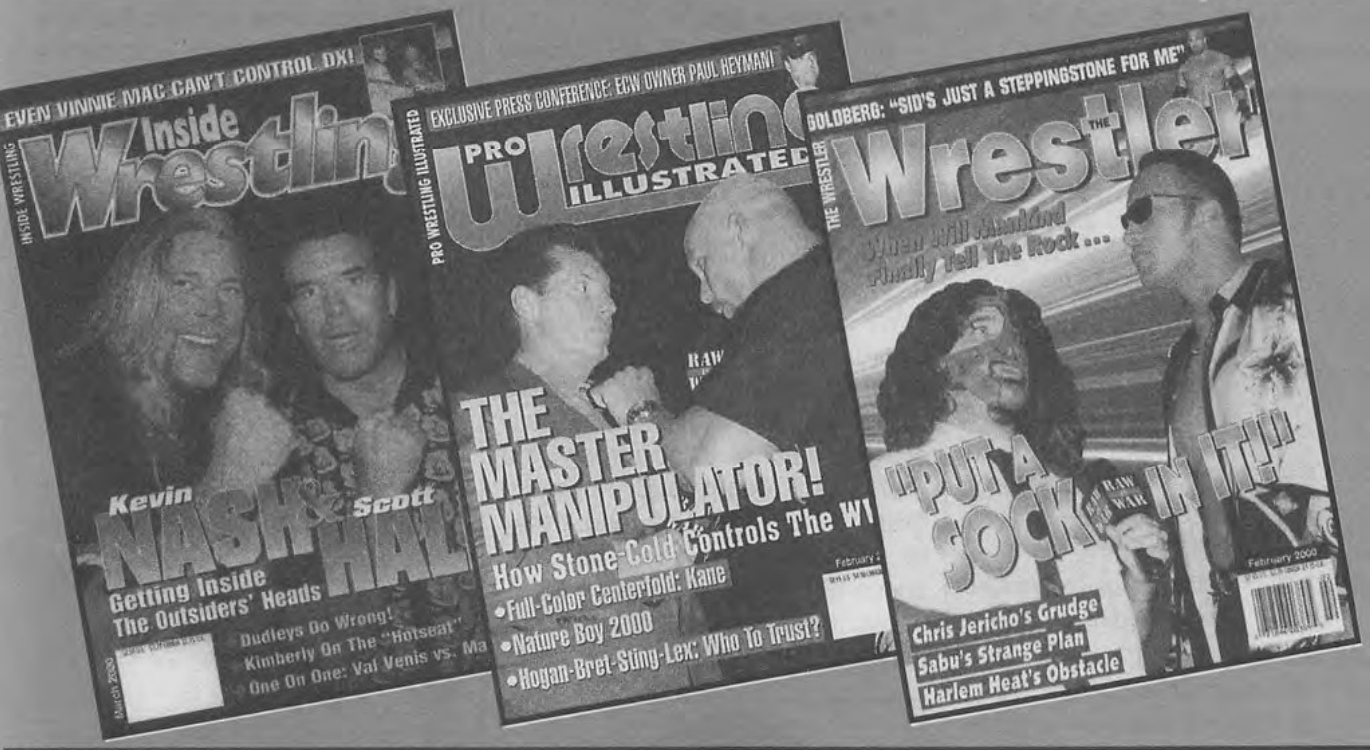
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NAMES MA

CONCEIT CAN BE an abrasive personality trait. Just ask **Billy Gunn**, who has managed to brag himself right out of **DeGeneration X**.

The end came backstage during *Raw Is War* on February 28 when Gunn, who was nursing a torn rotator cuff, told **Triple-H** that he is a better wrestler with one arm than Hunter is with two. Helmsley knocked Gunn to the floor with a forearm to the head before Road Dogg and X-Pac escorted their former partner out of Madison Square Garden.

Apparently, Triple-H, **Road Dogg**, and **X-Pac** had simply had enough of Gunn's arrogant behavior. "Billy was just too much," said X-Pac, "always saying he's the perfect athlete and DX should pin our hopes on him and not Triple-H. And always talking about his butt. Man, that got annoying."

Road Dogg, who one night earlier was pinned in a tag team title match by **The Dudley Boyz** when Gunn failed to break up an attempted Dudley death drop, concurred. He squarely blames Gunn for the loss.

"It's his fault we lost the title," James said. "He couldn't even raise his hand over his head because of that rotator cuff, but he just had to be on TV. We should have booted his butt a long time ago."

As a fan of the WWF, I have never been able to get behind DX 100 percent for the very reasons Gunn was ejected. He may be obnoxious, but Road Dogg, Helmsley, and X-Pac aren't any more humble. Eventually, Gunn's shoulder will heal, and he'll be back in the WWF—making trouble for his old comrades.

When **Booker** and **Billy Kidman** lock horns, you expect the intensity of their matches to go through the roof. Their recent feud, however, hasn't exactly taken off, and it may be because there really isn't an ounce of bad blood between them. In fact, it was respect that led to their match on February 28.

Tempers first flared between them on *Thunder,* when Kidman, who was tagging with Booker, turned his attention to **Torrie Wilson** at ringside while **Don** and **Ron Harris** punished Booker in the ring. Words, then shoves were exchanged backstage when Booker accused Kidman of caring more for that "hoochie" than his career. Booker then demanded a match against Kidman for the following week on *Nitro*, but now says his motives weren't born from a grudge.

"I wanted to teach Kidman a lesson about staying focused in the ring," Booker said. "You can't be paying attention to girls, or managers, or anything else in the ring. Kidman is a great wrestler, but his career could end tomorrow if he doesn't get his head right. This company needs young talent like him, and it's my job as a veteran to see that he does the right thing."

Danny Doring and **Roadkill** are two steaming mad wrestlers right

now, but members of ECW's matchmaking committee say they have no right to feel that way. After losing to then-tag team champs **Lance Storm** and **Justin Credible** on February 25, the number-one contenders were miffed to learn that there would be no rematch the next night at the TNN tapings. Instead, they would open the card against **Little Guido** and **Sal E. Graziano**.

Their hostility intensified when an impromptu match developed be-

KIN' NEWS

By Frank Krewda

tween **The Impact Players** and **Masato Tanaka** and **Tommy Dreamer** and reached its crescendo when Tanaka and Dreamer defeated Credible and Storm to win the title.

"Were we not the number-one contenders?" Doring asked. "Aren't we next in line for a World tag team title shot? Now we're number two because of a match that shouldn't have even happened."

ECW matchmakers refuted Doring by pointing out that by virtue of their loss to Credible and Storm on February 25, they were no longer the number-one contenders. Even if there was a scheduled tag team title match, they wouldn't have been the challengers.

"We didn't lose to the number-two team—we lost to the champions," Doring said. "How does that make us number two?"

Of course, Doring and Roadkill could have avoided this mess by beating the champs in the first place.

Fans of **Steven Regal** will be sad-

STEVEN REGAL

dened to learn that the Brit dropped a retirement match to **Jim Duggan** on February 16 in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. Regal, a former WCW TV champion, took exception to Duggan trash-picking the discarded belt and vowed to quit if he could not reclaim the title from Duggan later in the card. His retirement didn't last long, though, as he has resurfaced in Memphis Championship Wrestling.

Kenta Kobashi won his second All-Japan Triple Crown when he defeated **Vader** on February 27 at Budokan Hall in Tokyo. He used a series of lariats to stagger the big man before making the pin. Next up for Kobashi is former tag team partner **Jun Akiyama**, who stood in Kobashi's corner for the title match.

As for Vader, he won't have much time to miss his Triple Crown. He'll be busy defending the All-Japan International and Pacific Wrestling Federation tag team titles, which he and **"Dr. Death" Steve Williams** won from Akiyama and Kobashi on

SHANE DOUGLAS

February 20 in Kobe, Japan.

ECW alumni continue to infiltrate California's XPW. Not only have **"Big" Dick Dudley**, **Kronus**, and **Chastity** joined the ranks, but **Tammy Lynn Sytch**, **Chris Candido**, and **Axl Rotten** have also made their way out west. Even **Shane Douglas** showed up at a recent show. "The Franchise" took some time to badmouth WCW (he's currently embroiled in a legal tiff with the company) and to rekindle his friendship with Candido. When Shane donned a Triple Threat T-shirt, Candido said, "I love you, man" ... Neo Ladies star **Kyoko Inoue** and ECW Japan wrestler **Kodo Fuyuki** made wrestling history in Japan by becoming the first mixed team to win a major title. They defeated **H** and **Mr. Gannosuke** to win the Frontier Martial Arts Wrestling WEW tag team title on February 25. The win was facilitated by **Chocoball Masai**, who turned against H and Gannosuke and allowed Kodo to use his Samson crunch finisher.

Christopher Daniels won this year's Super 8 Tournament on February 26 in Wilmington, Delaware, beating **Vic Capri**, **Ace Darling**, and finally **Scoot Andrews** in the final round. A couple of weeks later, Daniels signed with WCW ... Fans of Memphis Championship Wrestling have been treated to a catfight or two recently as **Bobcat** continues to dominate **The Kat** (**Stacy Carter**) in singles matches. We could see Bobcat in a WWF ring soon! □

BOBCAT

ON THE ROAD

With Dave Lenker

I'VE ALWAYS SUSPECTED that professional wrestling in Canada was different from professional wrestling in the United States. Recently, two of Canada's preeminent wrestlers confirmed my suspicions—albeit for differing reasons. Bret Hart told me that "the fans in Canada take wrestling more seriously and are more interested in a wrestler's raw skill than the fans in the States," while Chris Benoit, also a native of Alberta, suggested that "wrestling fans up here are more devoted to their own," meaning Canadian wrestlers.

We saw a vivid example of this several years ago, when Bret Hart turned rulebreaker in the United States but remained a fan favorite in Canada, his home country. Hart was booed loudly in the United States when he ran down Steve Austin and other Americans, but was cheered for the same remarks in Canada. It was frightening to see the intensity with which Canadian fans supported Hart and voiced their hatred of the U.S.

In early-March, I traveled to Ontario, Canada, for two WWF house shows to see the difference first-hand. Surprisingly, and much to the chagrin of Benoit, I found out that Canadian fans love and hate their own for the same reasons American fans do: based on their actions.

The first night, I was in Toronto for a card at the new Air Canada Centre. In the third match of the night, Chris Benoit battled Rikishi Phatu. I expected the crowd to cheer Benoit, even though he had become one of the most detested men in the WWF, simply because of where he was born. I was wrong. When Benoit's music played and "The Crippler" made his entrance, very few were standing and cheering. Instead, most of them were sitting and booing. When Rikishi beat Benoit and went into his dance routine, the crowd danced along with him and ignored the defeated Benoit as he slunk his way back to the dressing room.

Bret Hart uses his Canadian heritage to his advantage. In the late-'90s, when Hart was still a member of the WWF, he was a hated villain in the United States but a hero to his Canadian brethren.

On the other hand, Christian is a local boy from Ontario, and he got a big round of applause when he came to the ring for his match against Crash Holly. The crowd cheered him again when he won the bout.

Then came Big Bossman, and he really inflamed the crowd. The redneck from Georgia berated Canadians, calling them "American wannabes," and gave the entire crowd the middle finger. By the time Bossman was finished talking, it appeared security was readying itself for a full-scale riot. Thank goodness Canadian-born Edge beat Bossman, much to the crowd's pleasure—and mine.

Chris Jericho is another Canadian boy, and he was over big time with the crowd. Kurt Angle, Jericho's opponent, tried

(Continued on page 73)

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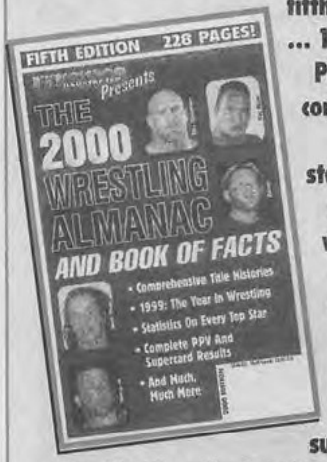
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Behind the Dressing Room Door

By Dave Rosenbaum

OPENED A COPY of the *Miami Herald* the other day and saw The Rock staring back at me. He was peering over his dark sunglasses with a look that said he wanted to lay the smack down on my roody-poo butt. Then I read the story next to the picture of The Rock and decided that I'd rather see him lay the smack down on Jim Lewis.

"Who is Jim Lewis?" you're probably asking right now.

Good question.

But before I provide you with my answer, a diatribe. I really hate to say the lines I'm about to say, because I'm afraid they clearly point me out as what I am: an old man. That's right, I, Dave Rosenbaum, former youthful journalist, chronicler of the wrestling wars, turned 40 the other day, which puts me on the same side of the hill as Stu Saks and Liz Hunter, and at least within an echo of Matt Brock (who is, of course, as old as those very same hills, no matter which side of them he's on).

Anyway, here goes: What is this world coming to? Has this world gone absolutely crazy? Doesn't anybody have even a bit of sense anymore?

See? I'm an old man. Those are the kinds of things that old men say. So let me go on to say that I don't understand hip-hop or the appeal of tattoos and body piercings, either.

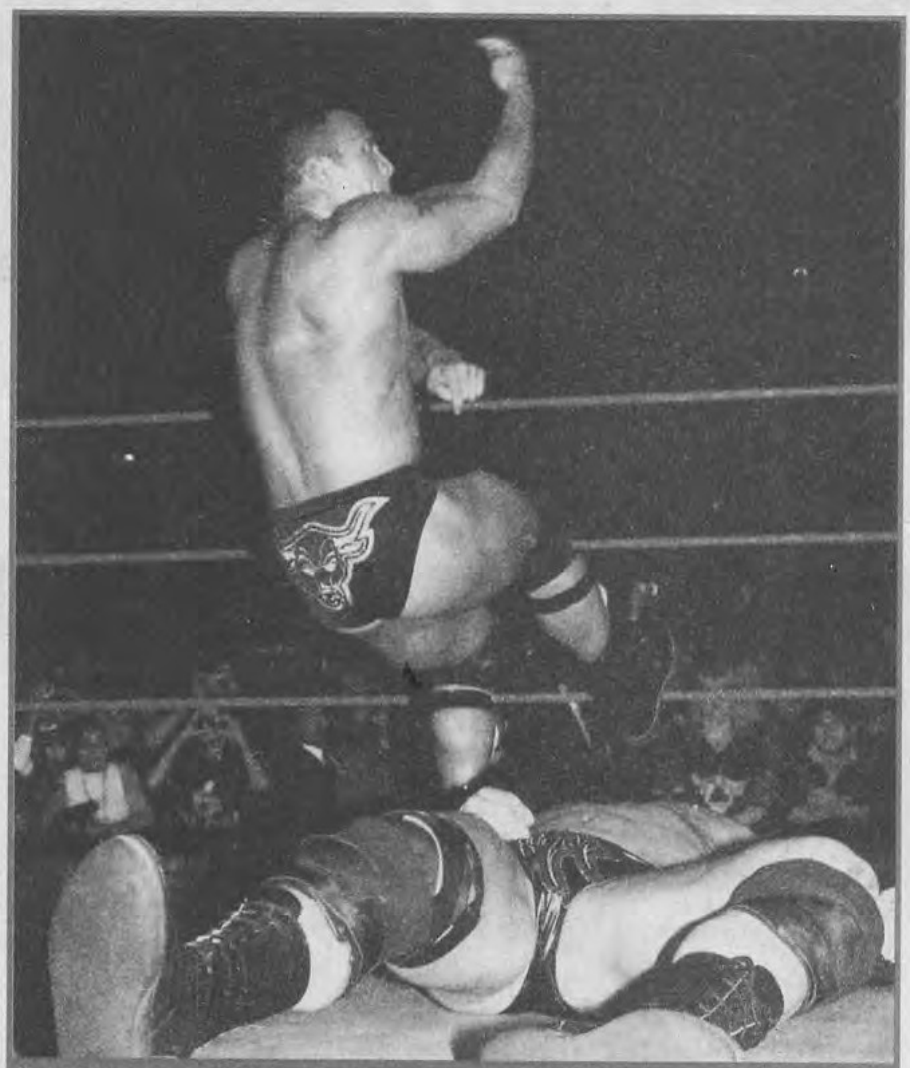
Anyway, back to the story, which I'm sure you've heard about. Jim Lewis is the attorney for Lionel Tate, a 12-year-old boy who is accused of murdering his six-year-old playmate by slamming her body around his home.

At press time, Lewis was planning to use professional wrestling as a defense in the case, arguing that Tate was imitating some of the moves he had seen on television. To be blunt, Lewis is probably going to argue that Tate laid the smack down on six-year-old Tiffany Eunick.

Lewis didn't plan on arguing that Tate was emulating The Rock specifically. He simply subpoenaed The Rock because he was the biggest wrestling star living near Miami, where the case is being tried.

I'm not going to say that Lewis is crazy (because he'd probably sue me if I did), but I will say that the prosecution offered Tate a plea bargain in which he would have gone to a juvenile detention center for three years, and that plea bargain was refused. If Tate is found guilty, though, he faces life in prison without parole. *Hmmmmmm,* three years in detention or the rest of your life behind bars. Now, I'm no lawyer, but I do tend to wager

(Continued on page 76)



Yes, The Rock lays the smack down on an almost nightly basis and is idolized by millions upon millions. But that doesn't mean that he should be held accountable when a young wrestling fan commits a horrible act, does it?

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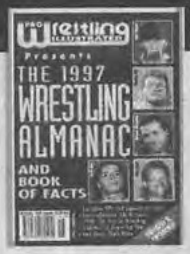

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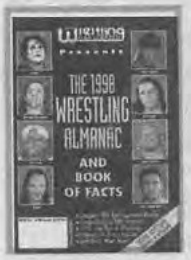

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the Insider

by Brandi Mankiewicz

(The opinions expressed in "The Insider" are those of Brandi Mankiewicz alone and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of anyone else on the staff of this magazine.)

THERE AREN'T TOO many wrestling shows I really look forward to anymore. The buildup to most pay-per-view events does very little for me. The attitudes of the guys who are on the pay-per-view events sometimes bother me, too. Some guys act like it's a chore to be involved in their given match. They forget what it was like to dream about just *being* on the roster of a major company, let alone being chosen to compete on a pay-per-view.

The attitudes of some of the guys make me numb to the whole experience. Many of WCW and the WWF's pay-per-views have turned into a glorified versions of the Monday night shows. ECW's bi-monthly offerings aren't much better.

But there is at least one event that makes me a fan again: the Super 8 Tournament. It's a showcase of the eight best unsigned cruiserweights on the independent scene today.

The tournament is the brainchild of Delaware-based East Coast Wrestling Association promoter Jim Kettner. Kettner started this tourney four years ago in an effort to give the fans an event that would showcase the best wrestling (not sports entertainment) possible. Since its inception, the Super 8 has grown from a local event to an international spectacle. It's still held every year in the snug confines of St. Matthew's Parish Hall in Newport, Delaware, just outside Wilmington, but it draws the attention of fans and promoters all over the United States and Japan. Kettner started out with a list of 44 applicants for this year's tourney before gradually whittling the list down to the elite eight.

I don't know if Kettner applies any quotas to his final selections, but there were two sharks on the card, and only one in the Super 8. Sounds a bit fishy to me. But what a thrill it was for this reporter to be right there when the only two sharks in the business (excluding promotion heads) actually came face-to-face.

To my left was Shark Boy, an athlete who has become my queenly mascot (his picture adorns my office wall). Shark Boy is one of the best cruiserweights to come out of Heartland Wrestling Association. He signed with WCW, only to be let go a few months later ... then called back to wrestle on various WCW TV tapings. He was in Delaware to make his first appearance in the Super 8.

Two sharks at one show? What are the odds? Former ECWA Super 8 participant Mark "The Shark" Shrader met up with 2000 Super 8 entrant Shark Boy at this year's event.

Mark "The Shark" Shrader is a solid competitor with a keen sense of humor and an amazing ability for shooting pool. He can be seen in action monthly at the ECWA shows and at various independents up and down the East Coast. There wasn't a place for him in this year's Super 8, but he did have a rooting interest for his new friend and finmate Shark Boy.

Shark Boy had just

(Continued on page 77)

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ON Assignment

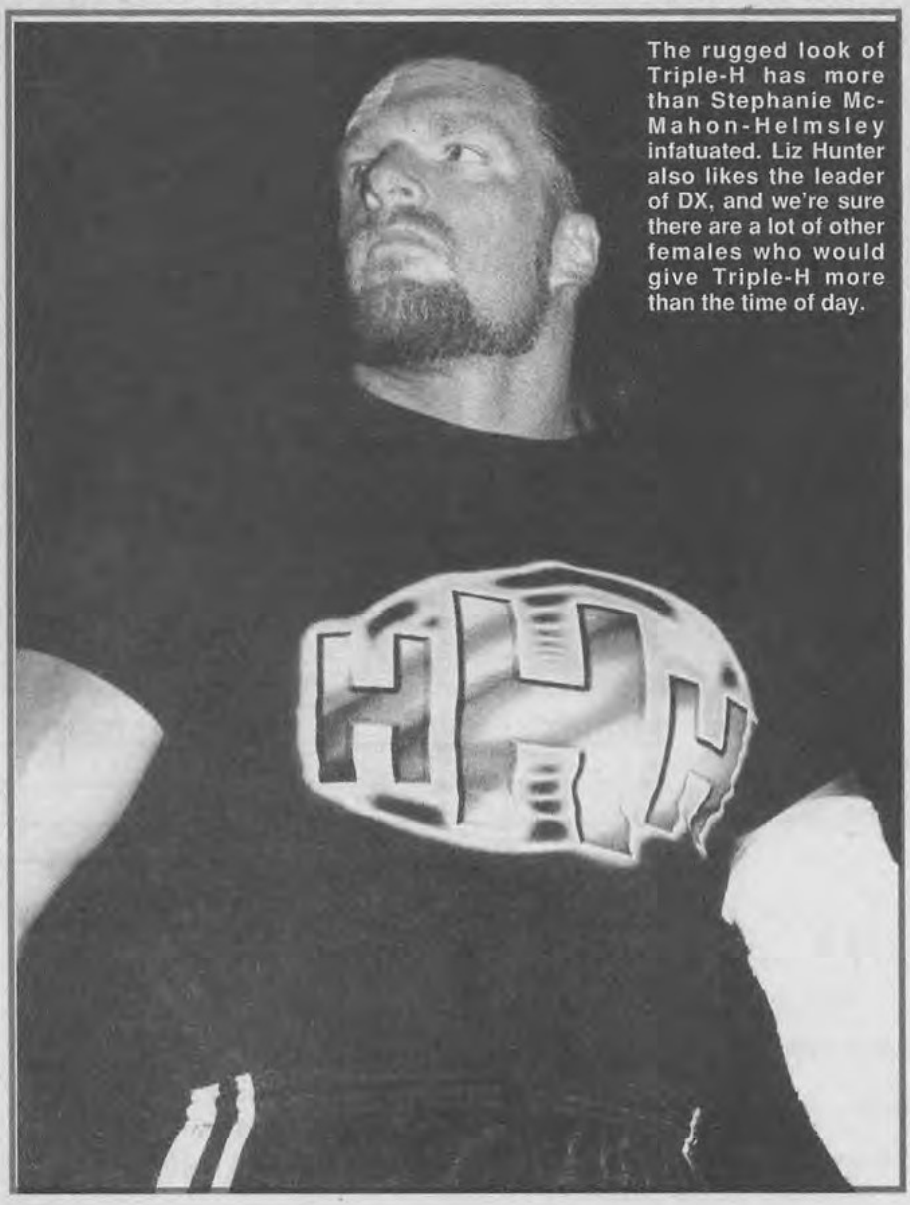
By Liz Hunter

THE FOLLOWING MUSINGS go against my journalistic principles, but at the urging of my closest friends, I'm going to do it. The wrestlers I cover often ask for my impressions of other wrestlers. Fans ask me about their favorite stars. My editorial colleagues ask me when it's my turn to buy lunch.

My girlfriends ask me which wrestlers would be the best to date.

I feel uncomfortable enough answering that type of question in private, let alone in a public forum. The more I've thought about it, though, it's not a bad subject to ponder ... if it's done in the proper manner. Hey, if Frank Krewda can rank his top 26 wrestling babes, as he did in the December 1999 issue of *Pro Wrestling Illustrated*, I can definitely chime in with my opinions on this matter.

No one wrestler immediately comes to mind. Instead, each wrestler possesses specific qualities that certain women would find appealing. I suppose The Rock would be the most appealing catch. The Rock personifies style. When you think of The Rock, you think of a young Elvis Presley, Denzel Washington, and The Fonz all rolled up into one. How could *any* woman resist the people's eyebrow?



The rugged look of Triple-H has more than Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley infatuated. Liz Hunter also likes the leader of DX, and we're sure there are a lot of other females who would give Triple-H more than the time of day.

Believe it or not, I understand why Stephanie McMahon-Helmsley finds Triple-H so irresistible. There are so many contradictory traits in the man. He's fun-loving, ready to "invade" CNN Center, and moon the camera on cue. He's powerful and strong and has well-maintained hair. Most would consider his especially large nose to be a flaw, but I don't think so. Helmsley strikes a stunning profile. He exudes charisma and confidence. In addition, there's an angry and dangerous side. That's revealed when he climbs onto the ring apron during his entrance, raises his arms in the air, turns his face into a scowl, and gives a primitive grunt. Remember the *Beastmaster* movie series? Triple-H is like that guy.

Here's another one that might surprise you: Jeff Jarrett. My first warning to Jarrett prior to a date would be to *never* call me "slappy." Otherwise, I think Jarrett would be fun to be around. He'd ridicule the couple at the next table and the slowpoke at the traffic light. Considering Jarrett's height and his recent bad attitude, he may suffer from a Napoleon complex—and he certainly has a problem dealing with women. Come to think of it, let's cross Jarrett off the list.

For those women seeking a little bit of class in an increasingly unclassy world, Norman Smiley might be the answer. Get rid of the silly football gear and put him in a tuxe-

do, and you have an international man-about-town. Want to dine in a French restaurant? Mr. "Smi-lay" is one man who won't embarrass you reading the menu—and I bet he'd know every wine on the list. Anyone who says the word "city" and pronounces it with a "t" instead of a "d" is sophisticated in my book.

Wait a minute, I have to get at least one ECW guy in here. How about Jerry Lynn? Sensitive, hard-working, and extremely polite. You know, the kind of boy who ends up standing against the wall at school dances. He's the nerd who grew up in all the right ways. I like it when Jerry wears his glasses during interviews. He isn't out to make impressions. He's just sincere, good 'ol Jerry.

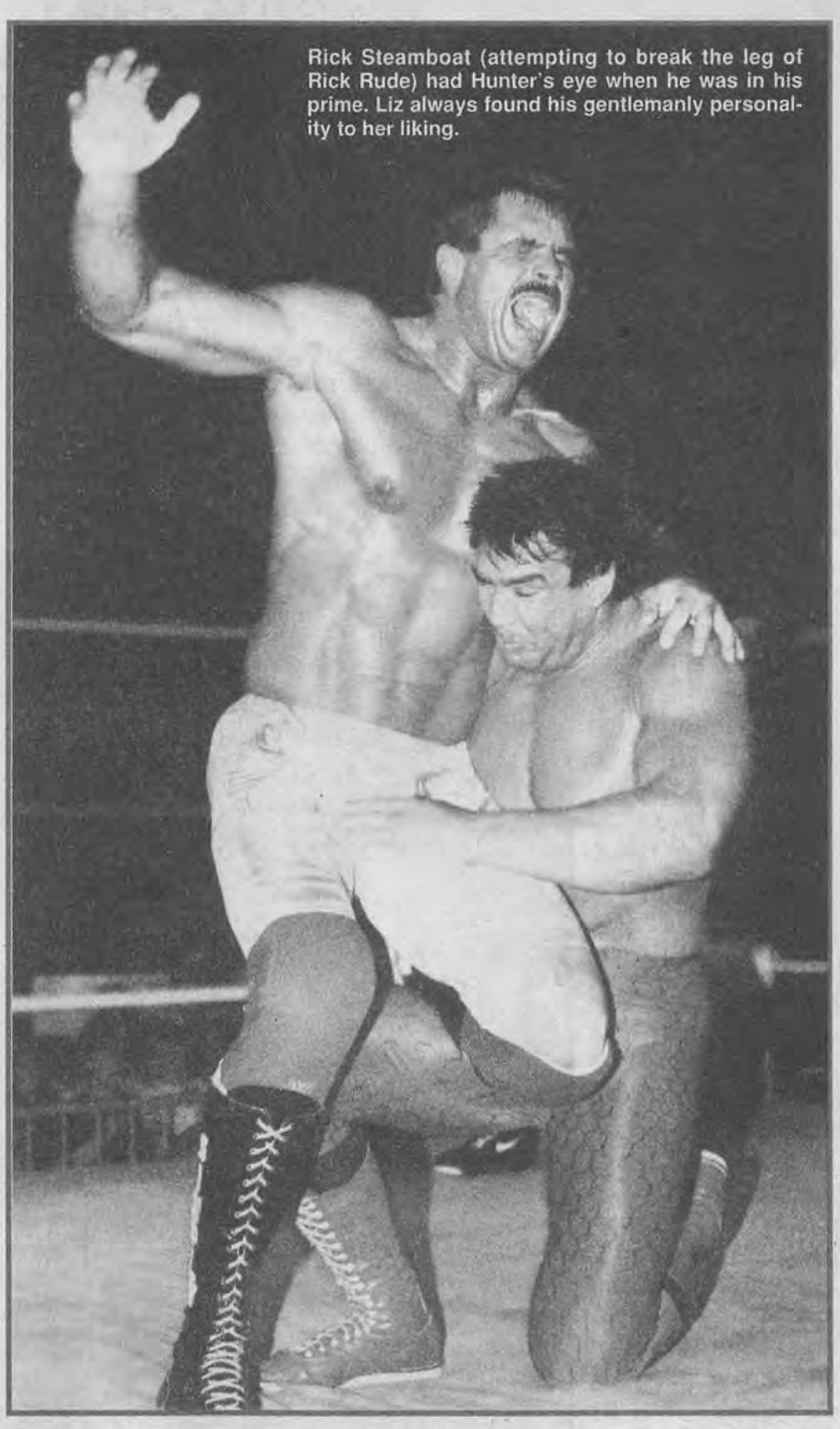
So there are my top four choices among today's hottest stars. Well, five, if Jarrett takes a sensitivity class. Of course, I would be remiss if I didn't mention my top picks of all-time. Back in 1970, when I was a teenager, I loved the three Pauls: Paul Diamond, Paul DeMarco, and Paul Christy. When I became a wrestling journalist a decade later, I had the opportunity to become familiar with wrestlers' personalities, not just their looks. I found Rick Steamboat, Billy Jack, and The Rock 'n' Roll Express to be every bit as beautiful on the inside as they were on the outside.

But, like most women, I was also attracted to men with an aura of danger. Let me quote a passage from my "On Assignment" column that appeared in the January 1987 issue of *PWI*: "Then he strolled slowly up the stairs toward the bar. Tanned, a two-day growth of beard accentuating his unbearable manliness, [he] leaned over the bar to request a drink." Have a guess as to who the mystery man is?

Let's just say he is The Total Package.

I suppose the next logical question is this: Who would I *not* go on a date with?

Touchy subject, but here goes. Chris Jericho: too whiny. Steve Blackman: too bland. Bret Hart: too complicated. Bill Goldberg: too quiet. Steve Corino: too loud.



Rick Steamboat (attempting to break the leg of Rick Rude) had Hunter's eye when he was in his prime. Liz always found his gentlemanly personality to her liking.

As far as why other women find these men appealing, I really don't know. Physically, all of them are fine. Maybe in another time and another place. It all depends on my mood—and the way they're behaving at the moment.

That's my analysis of the romance factor in wrestling. Rest assured that I will never transgress the bounds of my journalistic integrity. I resisted Rick Rude for 15 years. That means I can resist anyone.

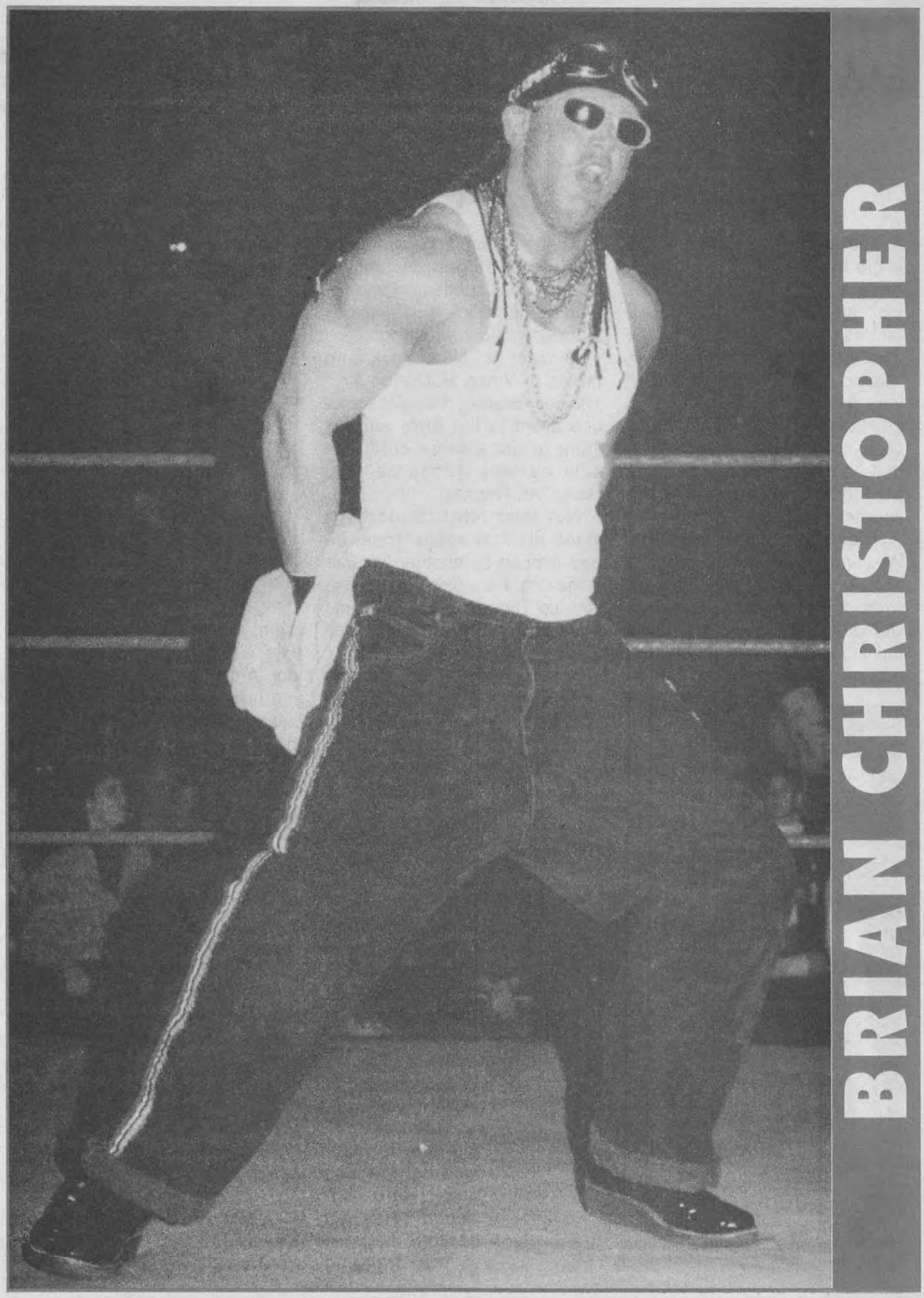
If the editors of this magazine can place scantily clad women on the cover at every opportunity, I can be forgiven for this minor indulgence. If you ever date one of these guys, let me know what happens. □

INSIDE WRESTLING CAPSULE PROFILE 294

BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

A STAR IN Memphis for most of his career, Brian Christopher—a.k.a. Grandmaster Sexay—has worked hard to become a main-event player in the WWF ... First rose to prominence in the USWA as a member of The New Kids with Tony Williams ... Split with Williams and became a reviled rulebreaker ... Defeated Tom Prichard for his first title, the USWA Texas title, on February 10, 1992 ... On March 23, 1992, he defeated Jimmy Valiant to begin the first of more than 20 USWA Southern title reigns *("If that doesn't prove my greatness, nothing will!")* ... Developed a love/hate relationship with Jeff Jarrett ... The two traded the Southern title back and forth in early-1993, but by the end of the year, they were USWA tag team champions together ... They held the tag belts for less than a month, however ... Made his national television debut on June 16, 1997, and lost to Chris Candido on *Raw* ... That evening, ECW owner Paul Heyman, while sitting in on commentary on *Raw,* revealed that Christopher was, indeed, the son of Jerry "The King" Lawler *("That guy knows how to stir up trouble")* ... Engaged in a long and largely unsuccessful feud with then-WWF light heavyweight champion Taka Michinoku ... Frustrated by his inability to beat Taka, Christopher focused on tag team wrestling and formed a team called Too Much with Scott Taylor ... They won a few big matches together, but Too Much never broke out of mid-card status *("I guess we weren't quite cool enough back then")* ... After missing time due to injury, he returned to active competition in Memphis' Power Pro Wrestling, where he feuded with Tommy Rich and Doug Gilbert, among others ... Also briefly held the NWA North American tag team title with former USWA rival Spellbinder ... Returned to the WWF with Taylor in the fall of '99 as Too Cool (Scotty Too Hotty and Grandmaster Sexay) ... The duo portrayed themselves as being heavily influenced by hip-hop culture ... Aligned themselves with Rikishi Phatu after he saved them from a beating at the hands of The Mean Street Posse *("Rikishi is almost as cool as us")* ... Were participants in of one *Raw's* most thrilling matches ever, the 10-man tag pitting Triple-H's five-man team against Cactus Jack's five-man team, of which Christopher, Taylor, and Rikishi were members ... Their successful participation in that match proved that Too Cool and Phatu are worthy of main-event status *("We're finally there")* ... Their convincing defeat of Chris Benoit, Perry Saturn, and Dean Malenko in a six-man bout at No Way Out confirmed it ... Now Christopher is in a position to become one of wrestling's brightest stars *("I've deserved the spotlight my whole life").* □

After years of toiling on the independent circuit and as a mid-carder in the WWF, Brian Christopher (punching Jeff Hardy) has finally achieved stardom as Grandmaster Sexay.


BRIAN CHRISTOPHER

Whatever Happened To...? By Scott Teal

"SAILOR" ART THOMAS

These days, it's hard to make it big in wrestling if you don't have a chiseled physique, as your look is every bit as important as your in-ring skills. In the 1960s and early-'70s, however, "Sailor" Art Thomas was one of very few wrestlers who had an outstanding body. In fact, many of his contemporaries will tell you that Art sported a more muscular physique than any other pro wrestler of his time.

Thomas grew up in Madison, Wisconsin, was discovered at a YMCA in 1954 by an old Greek wrestler named Jimmy Demetral. Demetral convinced Art to begin training and soon began booking him on carnival athletic shows against all comers. Seven years later, Buddy Rogers, the original "Nature Boy," spotted Art and figured he had a lot of potential as a drawing card in wrestling.

"I went to New York and talked to Vince McMahon Sr.," Thomas recalled. "He sent someone down to the Army surplus store to get a sailor outfit. He said he was gonna call me 'Sailor' Art Thomas."

Not long after "Sailor" Art made his first appearance, he was jumped by another wrestler in the ring. Fans didn't appreciate that, so Thomas quickly became a fan favorite. "Overnight, I was made," he said.

Thomas did, indeed, become a big draw in New York, especially when was facing opponents like Johnny Valentine, The Great Mortier, Killer Kowalski, Bob Orton, Mark Lewin, and Gorilla Monsoon. In 1967, a kid in Tampa came up and introduced himself to Thomas. That kid grew up to be pretty famous. His name was Terry Bollea, the future Hulk Hogan.

"Sailor" Art Thomas plants a fist in the chest of Bronco Lubich during a 1968 match in Charlotte.

"Hulk was working here in Madison not too long ago," said Art. "Bobby Heenan brought me back to the dressing room, and I met him for the first time. He told me, 'You were my idol, Art. In 1967, when I asked you how you got all those muscles, you said, "When I say the magic word, my chest pops out, and my arms pop out." Art, I'll never forget that.' I was just kidding with him back then. I was always nice to all of the kids."

Thomas wrestled his final match on November 15, 1980, in Hammond, Indiana, then went on to work in Oscar Mayer's bacon department. He retired from that job with a comfortable pension in 1989. He still lives in Madison today, and every morning, he meets for breakfast with other retirees from Oscar Mayer. He keeps himself in shape by walking with friends at a local mall.

(Scott Teal publishes the newsletter "Whatever Happened To ...?" He can be reached at: P.O. Box 2781, Hendersonville, TN 37077-2781. Web site: www.teal.org/wht) □

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NEWS FROM THE

HAMBURG, PA
BY TIMOTHY A. WALKER

GILLBERG VS. TY STREET

Although Gillberg is no longer the WWF light heavyweight champ, he is still wrestling like a champion. Ty Street, a newcomer with a cocky attitude, challenged the veteran in this bout. Early on, Street and his manager, Judd the Stud, bad-mouthed Gillberg, but Gillberg paid no attention. Instead, he quickly leveled Street with his spear and dazed him with a jackhammer for the pinfall victory.

OTHER BOUTS: Robert Evans pinned Dave Patera ... Scott Furie, Johnny Maxx, & Benny Stolzfus beat Mr. Ooh La La, Mozart Fontaine, & Ground Zero to win the PCW six-man title ... Nick Mondo pinned Joe Brock ... Brian Logan pinned Rich Myers ... Boogie Woogie Brown & Jeff Peterson beat PCW tag team champs Kodiak Bear & Eddie Valentine to win the title ... Nick Mondo won a battle royal ... Christian York & Joey Matthews beat Vince Goodnite & J.J. Johnson ... PCW champ Michael Modest pinned Cheetah Master in a lumberjack match.

OLDCASTLE, ONTARIO
BY JED SHERMAN

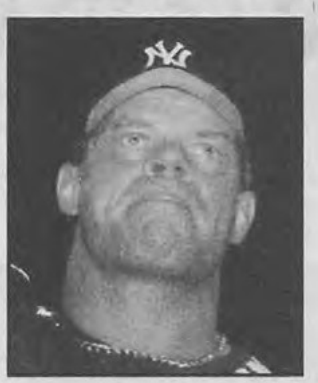
D-LO BROWN VS. SCOTT D'AMORE

D-Lo Brown expected a clean match with his pal Scott D'Amore, the Can-Am champ, after D'Amore shook his hand at the beginning, and he got it. He wasn't prepared for what happened *after* the match, however. Early on, D'Amore hoisted D-Lo into a fireman's carry, but as he moved him into position for a sitdown slam, D-Lo's legs hit referee Jeffrey Scott, knocking him out. As replacement ref A.T. Huck ran in, D-Lo crashed into him with a frog splash. That's when Rhino ran in and attacked D'Amore. D'Amore and Brown both ran him off, but then D'Amore leveled D-Lo with a clothesline. At this point, Rhino joined Scott in pummeling Brown.

OTHER BOUTS: Chris Pillon wrestled Brett Nikita to a no-contest ... Rhino defeated Larry Destiny ... King Kong Bundy beat Geza Kalman Jr. ... Joe E. Legend beat Jeff Wallace ... Chris Valentino & Rocco DaVinci beat Can-Am tag team champs Otis Apollo & Bobby Clancy to win the title.

SAN FRANCISCO, CA
BY ALICIA WARREN

HULK HOGAN VS. LEX LUGER



Hulk Hogan is on a winning streak again, and Luger became another victim for him when the two met at SuperBrawl. Hogan gained an edge by connecting with a big boot to Lex's head, but later on, Luger nailed Hogan with a low blow and was going to hit him with a belt, but Hogan's manager, Jimmy Hart, hit Luger with his arm cast. Hogan then whacked Luger with *his* arm cast before finishing him off with a legdrop.

OTHER BOUTS: The Artist beat Lash LeRoux to win the vacant WCW cruiserweight belt ... Brian Knobs beat WCW hardcore champ Bam Bam Bigelow for the title ... Three Count beat Norman Smiley in a handicap match ... The Wall beat The Demon ... WCW World tag champs Big Vito & Johnny the Bull beat David Flair & Crowbar ... Billy Kidman beat Vampiro ... Ric Flair defeated Terry Funk in a death match ... Tank Abbott beat Big Al in a skins match ... WCW World champ Sid Vicious won a three-way match against Scott Hall and Jeff Jarrett.

WRESTLING CAPITALS

HARTFORD, CT
BY FRANK MILLER

THE BIG SHOW VS. THE ROCK

This bout was an all-out brawl from the start, as The Rock and Big Show brawled at ringside. After several minutes, they finally made their way into the ring for the first time, where Rock got a near-fall after hitting a Russian legsweep. Show then knocked out referee Earl Hebner with a chair shot. Tim White replaced Hebner, but was ejected from the match by Hebner as soon as he came to. Finally, Shane McMahon appeared at ringside and nailed Rock with a chair shot, allowing Show to get the pin.

OTHER BOUTS: Kurt Angle pinned WWF I-C champ Chris Jericho to win the title ... The Dudley Boyz beat WWF World tag champs The New Age Outlaws to win the title ... Mark Henry beat Viscera ... Edge & Christian defeated The Hardy Boyz ... Tazz beat Big Bossman by disqualification ... X-Pac pinned Kane ... Too Cool & Rikishi beat The Radicals ... WWF World champ Triple-H pinned Cactus Jack in a "Hell In A Cell" match.

MILWAUKEE, WI
BY STEPHEN DREW

MIKE AWESOME VS. SPIKE DUDLEY

Spike Dudley is known as a "giant killer," but in this match, he really didn't come very close to upsetting the ECW World heavyweight champion. Awesome dominated the match, toying with little Spike the way a cat toys with a mouse. Every attempt at offense made by Spike was countered by Awesome. Despite the crowd's support for Spike, Awesome spiked Dudley through a table using his running power bomb finisher and got the win.

OTHER BOUTS: Danny Doring & Roadkill defeated The Dupp Brothers ... Bill Wiles & C.W. Anderson defeated Nova & Chris Chetti ... The Sandman and Rhino wrestled to a no-contest ... Jazz defeated Simon Diamond ... Masato Tanaka defeated Angel ... Super Crazy won a three-way match against Little Guido and Yoshihiro Tajiri ... ECW World tag team champions Lance Storm & Justin Credible (with Dawn Marie) defeated Raven & Tommy Dreamer (with Francine).

WILMINGTON, DE
BY JEFF AMDUR

CHRISTOPHER DANIELS VS. SCOOT ANDREWS

Christopher Daniels lost in the finals of last year's Super 8 tournament, but won this year by beating Andrews in the finals. The match was a wrestling clinic filled with submission holds, graceful aerial moves, and punishing finishing combinations. Scoot worked on Chris' leg early on, but that didn't ground him. Daniels overcame this and executed his last rites finisher for the win.

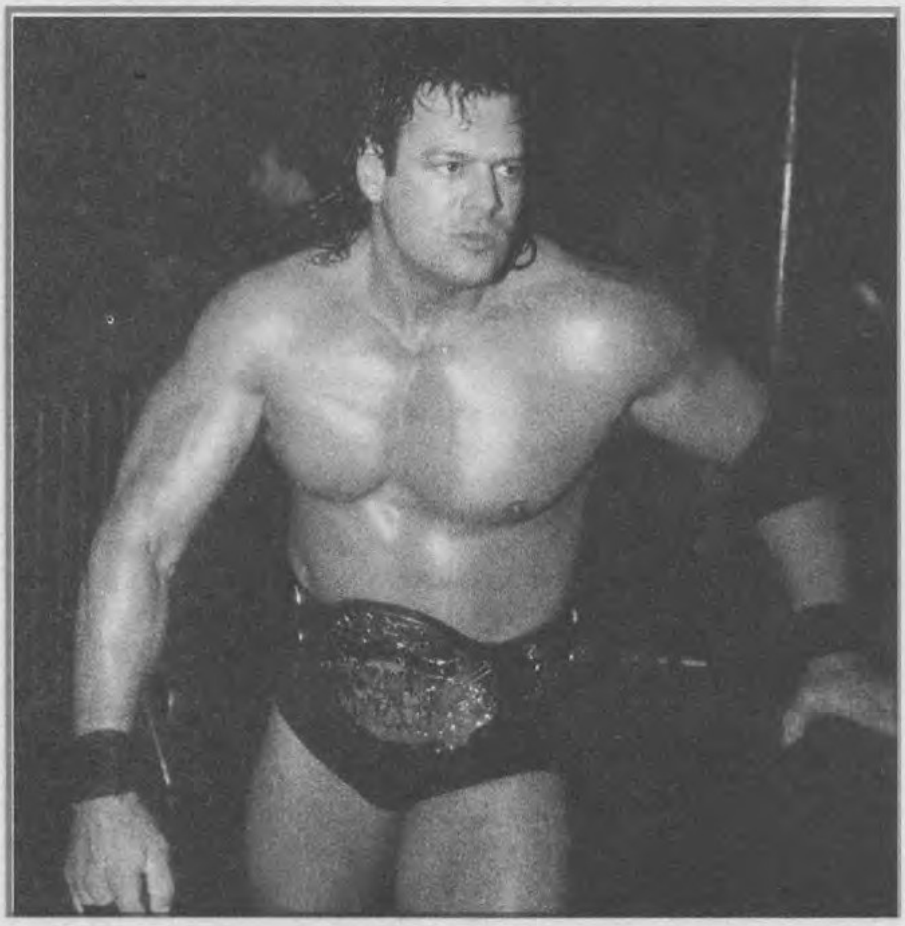
OTHER BOUTS: ***In Super 8 quarterfinal matches:*** Scoot Andrews pinned Trent Acid ... Chad Collyer beat Shark Boy ... Jet Jaguar pinned Jeff Peterson ... Chris Daniels beat Vic Capri ... ***In semifinal matches:*** Daniels pinned Ace Darling (substituting for the injured Jaguar) ... Andrews beat Collyer ... ***In non-tournament matches:*** Glen Osbourne won a Royal Rumble ... ECWA Mid-Atlantic champ Ty Street beat Glen Osbourne in a lumberjack match ... J.J. The Ring Crew Guy & Cheetah Master beat ECWA tag team champs J.R. Ryder & Inferno Kid in a non-title bout.

Matt Brock's Plain Speaking

Harder than nails, veteran wrestling reporter Matt Brock has logged more miles covering wrestling than any other journalist. Every month Matt will travel to the sport's hotbeds, reporting everything he sees without fear or favor

MILWAUKEE, WI

Impressed again with Mike Awesome. Read something in one of these magazines recently where Will Welsh was giving his opinions on who would be the first wrestler to win the WCW World, WWF World, and ECW World heavyweight titles now that ECW has world title status from this magazine. He picked Vader, apparently forgetting that Vader was a total flop last time he wrestled in the WWF, which was only about a year or so ago, and that he's probably too far advanced in his career to wrestle in ECW. Dismissed Mike Awesome, the current ECW heavyweight champ, as too old, even though Awesome's a lot younger than Vader and seems to have a more promising future, too. Save for a week-long reign by Masato Tanaka, Awesome's been ECW World champion since mid-September, and he looked darn impressive beating Spike Dudley here tonight. Awesome's power bombs are about the best you'll ever see, Sid Vicious' included. Dudley hung tough again, but Awesome power-bombed him through a table before getting the pin. Good match, impressive performance. The thing about Awesome is that even if he's in his mid-30s, which is old for a man to be making his first big run in this sport, a lot of the best wrestlers have thrived well into their late-40s and won world titles. That means if Awesome is anything like the rest of them, he has about 10 or 15 years to win the WCW and WWF world titles, and he's probably going to get his chance, too. The way things have gone over the past few months, with stars leaving ECW every time you turn around, Awesome's going to get his chance real soon. Welsh picks Vader. Brock goes with Awesome.



MIKE AWESOME

Godforsaken part of the world this time of year. Godforsaken part of the world any time of year. Makes you wonder what you're still doing on this miserable beat at this age, but it comes with the territory. The major similarity between the WWF and WCW these days is that there are wrestlers calling the shots in both federations, so on this card we have Lex Luger wrestling Vampiro, and Ric Flair taking on Buff Bagwell. Used to be you knew exactly who was wrestling just by looking at the card or the advertisement in the paper before the show, but today you buy a ticket, show up, and then find out who's wrestling. Makes things a lot more complicated if you ask me, but then again, nobody's asked me anything about anything like this in a long time (other than Saks asking me about my expense report the other day). If they did, then I'd tell them that Jarrett shouldn't be giving the NWO girls a spelling contest in the middle of what's supposed to be a wrestling show, and that fans in the olden days wouldn't have cared if Bagwell was making goo-goo eyes at Miss Hancock. Of course, this is *Thunder,* and the presumption is that everyone cares. Then there was an evening dress contest and a makeup fight and a lot of nonsense before they got down to the real wrestling, which wasn't bad, but wasn't great, either. Flair beat Bagwell, then Curt Hennig arrived on the scene and attacked Flair, and a lot more nonsense happened. This reporter will be getting out of Fargo on the first plane in the morning. If there is a first plane in the morning.

FARGO, ND

THE ROCK

Word is that The Undertaker is recovering quickly and could be back in the ring by May, but probably of more interest to wrestling fans is the condition of Steve Austin. Jim Ross reported that his rehab is going well and that Austin will return to the ring earlier than expected, which in my book could be anytime, because I never expected him to wrestle again given the condition of his neck. Whether or not he's better than ever will be another story, because Austin wasn't looking or sounding very good to me when he was interviewed by Ross at halftime of the Super Bowl. As for his feud with Triple-H, that could heat up again in a real hurry, but for this reporter's money, the real question will be how The Rock and Austin survive in the same federation. The Rock's been hot for a long time, but he's gotten a lot hotter since Austin left the scene. The Rock likes to talk and likes to have the camera on him, and he obviously likes being the WWF's number-one guy. This leaves questions galore: Can the WWF have two number-one guys at the same time? Will Austin overshadow The Rock? Will The Rock overshadow Austin? Most megastars don't like being number two, and it could affect their performance after they've been on top for a while. If Austin returns, the WWF is going to be a very crowded place.

NEW YORK, NY

Watching a tape of Vader and Steve Williams winning the All-Japan Pro Wrestling International and Pacific Wrestling Federation tag team championships in Japan. Both of them still look impressive. "Dr. Death" is as tough as ever, and Vader looks even tougher than ever, which is awfully surprising considering how he left the WWF. Vader's talking a lot these days about hunger and wanting to reprove himself, and he's doing an impressive job of it so far. Williams was good, but Vader was the dominant man in this match, and you have to think that he's capable of beating anybody he faces these days. Now there's talk about what might happen if Vader returns to the United States, which, if you ask me, would be a big mistake. He has his career going good in Japan, and unless he really hates it there—couldn't blame him if he did—he might as well stay there and see how far he can go. Maybe he'll come back one day and show that his last stay in the WWF was a fluke, but that day will probably be far off. Don't know what Vader's eating—have to think it can't be just sushi and rice—but he looks good, and he's wrestling good. Big career turnaround. □

AMBLER, PA

WRESTLE America BACK ISSUES!

Since its debut in 1992, the WRESTLE AMERICA concept has proven to be wildly popular with the wrestling public. No other magazine offers such well-rounded coverage of the U.S. wrestling scene. Supplies of back issues are limited, and at only $5 apiece (postage included), they are moving fast. Order today!

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September 1993: Power Play! Has Crush Muscled Lex Luger Out Of The WWF Title Picture. Color Centerfold—Davey Boy Smith vs. Vader. Plus: Bagwell & Scorpio, Windham-Simmons, Jeff Jarrett, Hennig-Michaels.

November 1993: The King Is Dead! Long Live The (Burger) King! Color Centerfold—Sid Vicious vs. Sting. Plus: Nasty Boys, 1-2-3 Kid, Ted DiBiase, Brian Lee, Nasty Boys.

Winter 1993: Power Bomb Explosion At Starrcade! Finally, Vader vs. Vicious. Magazine Within A Magazine: WWF World title history. Plus: Rock 'n' Roll Express, Curt Hennig, Rick Steamboat, Hansen-DiBiase-Deaton.

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Fall 1994: Is Wrestling Becoming Too Hardcore For Sting? Magazine Within A Magazine: PPV Directory. Plus: Funk-Rhodes, Lex Luger, Randy Savage, Inoki-Muta.

Winter 1994: How Curt Hennig Will Make WCW "Perfect" For Ric Flair. Magazine Within A Magazine: Wrestling's Bad Guys. Plus: Hogan-Vader, Curt Hennig & Ric Flair, Yokozuna, Mr. Hughes.

Spring 1995: Color Him Bitter: Randy Savage—Why Another Feud With Hulk Hogan Is Inevitable. Magazine Within A Magazine: Guide To Independent Wrestling. Plus: Brutus Beefcake, Stu & Helen Hart, Shawn Michaels & Diesel, The Rottens.

Summer 1995: Hogan-Vader: Who Will Survive The Megawar? Magazine Within A Magazine: Megastars Fact And Trivia Book. Plus: Harlem Heat, WWF title vs. title matches, Sting, Eddie Gilbert.

Fall 1995: Diesel vs. Yokozuna: A Half-Ton Of Holy Hell! The Match The Promoters Are Afraid To Make! Magazine Within A Magazine: The Main Event. Plus: Ric Flair, Alex Wright, Jerry Lawler, Sabu.

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Summer 1996: Wrestlemania XII: Finally—The Wrestlers Are The Stars. Magazine Within A Magazine: Wrestling's Sexiest Superstars. Plus: Dallas Page, WCW cruiserweight title, Godwinns.

Fall 1996: WCW Responds To Invaders: "This Means War!" Magazine Within A Magazine: The Wrestling Championship Trivia Challenge. Plus: Rod Price & Steve Austin, Shawn Michaels, Eliminators-Gangstas, Giant-Sting.

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Fall 1997: Strip Hogan Of His Title? It's Up To You! Magazine Within A Magazine: Guide To Independent Wrestling. Plus: Psicosis, Mankind, Van Dam & Lawler, T. Rantula.

Winter 1997: Who Would Win Wrestling's Tough Man Contest? Magazine Within A Magazine: Icons' Timelines. Plus: Curt Hennig, WCW up-and-comers, Brian Christopher, Chad Hart.

April 1998: DDP: "There Are Too Many Cowards In WCW!" *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The Real Year-End Awards. Plus: Jacquelyn-Disco, Ken Shamrock, Vader, Osbourne-Mankind.

June 1998: Mero, Mero Off The Wall ... You're Not Fair To Sable At All. *Wrestling Bad Guys:* 10 Good Guys With A *Bad* Future. Plus: Lex Luger, Eddy Guerrero, Cactus-Austin, Justin Credible.

August 1998: Hey, Goldberg, Slow Down! These Two-Minute Matches Are Killing You! *Wrestling Bad Guys:* Bad-O-Charts: How Our Favorites Rank In Six Categories. Plus: Bret Hart, Sabu & Van Dam, Austin-McMahon, Jim Cornette.

October 1998: Lies ... Deceit ... Intrigue: How WCW Created The NWO Rift. *Wrestling Bad Guys:* Owen Hart & The Giant. Plus: Chris Benoit, Cornette-Sunny, Rocky-Faarooq, Cheetah Master, Goldberg-Austin.

December 1998: The Rock Lays The Smack Down On The Fans! "Hatred Runs Cold In My Veins." *Wrestling Bad Guys:* Rulebreaking: The State Of The Game. Plus: X-Pac, Jericho-Malenko, Nicole Bass, The Giant.

February 1999: His "O" Must Go: Who's Going To Break Goldberg's Streak? *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The *Real* Holiday Wish List For The Stars! Plus: The Flock, Giant Silva, Owen Hart, NWA.

April 1999: Gettin' Crazy! Inside The Heads Of Wrestling's Wackiest Men! *Wrestling Bad Guys:* The Real Year-End Awards. Plus: Horace Hogan, Billy Kidman, Jarrett-Debra, Riggins & Dunn.

June 1999: The WCW-NWO War! 10 Crucial Factors That Will Decide The Winner! *Wrestling Bad Guys: The Top 10 Turns Of All-Time.* Plus: Flair-Hall, Undertaker-Kane, Rock-Hunter, Taz.

August 1999: Austin's Quandary: He Can't Destroy McMahon ... He Can't Ignore McMahon ... He Can't Live Without McMahon. *Wrestling Bad Guys: These Men Must Be Banned!* Plus: Scott Steiner, Bob Holly, Jimmy James, WCW cruisers.

October 1999: WCW In Turmoil! Who's In Charge Here? *Wrestling Bad Guys: Happy Birthday, NWO!* Plus: Hak, Jerry Lawler, Yokozuna, WWF cliques.

December 1999: Wrestle In Peace! How 'Taker & Kane Can Bury Their Past Forever! *Wrestling Bad Guys: Triple-H—Finally, A Main-Eventer.* Plus: Curt Hennig, Van Hammer, Blackman-Shamrock, ECW-TNN.

February 2000: Shocking WCW Survey! Even Hogan's "Friends" Don't Trust Him! Wrestling Bad Guys: Rock Bottom! How Low Will This Man Go To Kiss Up To The Fans? Plus: Storm & Credible, Shane McMahon, Brian Hildebrand.

April 2000: Vince—The Name That Will Haunt Bret Hart Forever! Wrestling Bad Guys: The Real Year-End Awards. Plus: Sandman, DX-Venis, Heroes PPV.

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revealed!

THE TOP STARS ANSWER YOUR MOST PERSONAL—AND OFFBEAT—QUESTIONS

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING SURE has changed over the past several years, not only in terms of what we see and hear on television, but also in the way our great sport is covered in magazines and on the Internet.

Still, there is one thing that hasn't changed and probably never will: Wrestling fans still want the inside scoops on their favorite stars.

So, once again, the intrepid editors of INSIDE WRESTLING undertook the challenge of asking their most pointed and least expected questions of the game's hottest wrestlers.

And, for a fifth straight year, the men and women we interviewed did not disappoint. For their candor, we applaud and thank each and every superstar who helped make this special section very special, indeed. Their responses were as entertaining and informative as ever!

That, however, does not mean that this section hasn't undergone some changes of its own.

For example, to comply with the wrestling public's insatiable demand for greater insight, the editors at INSIDE WRESTLING formulated the most intrusive questions to date and probed the minds of your favorite stars deeper than ever before.

Another change you might notice is the number of ECW personalities who participated in this year's issue. When we began doing this section back in 1996, we polled only three ECW wrestlers. In 1997, we polled three again. In '98, Paul Heyman was the lone ECW participant. Last year, four ECW stars helped out. This year, six extreme personalities—Mike Awesome, Dawn Marie, Rhino, Justin Credible, Steve Corino, and Francine—opened up for our reporters.

The fact that you, the fans, demanded more dirt on these hardcore heroes indicates that there are some big changes on the professional wrestling horizon. Of course, there is another wrestling constant our readers should always keep in mind: You can count on INSIDE WRESTLING to rip the lid off professional wrestling with special sections like this one.

mike awesome

JAPAN MEANS THIS TO ME ...

Japan is a butt-kicking wrestling country. It's a great place to go and fight the ECW style of wrestling, which is basically where the ECW style of wrestling came from. It had a big Japanese influence. So for me, Japan means butt-kicking wrestling

BEING A WORLD CHAMPION IS ...

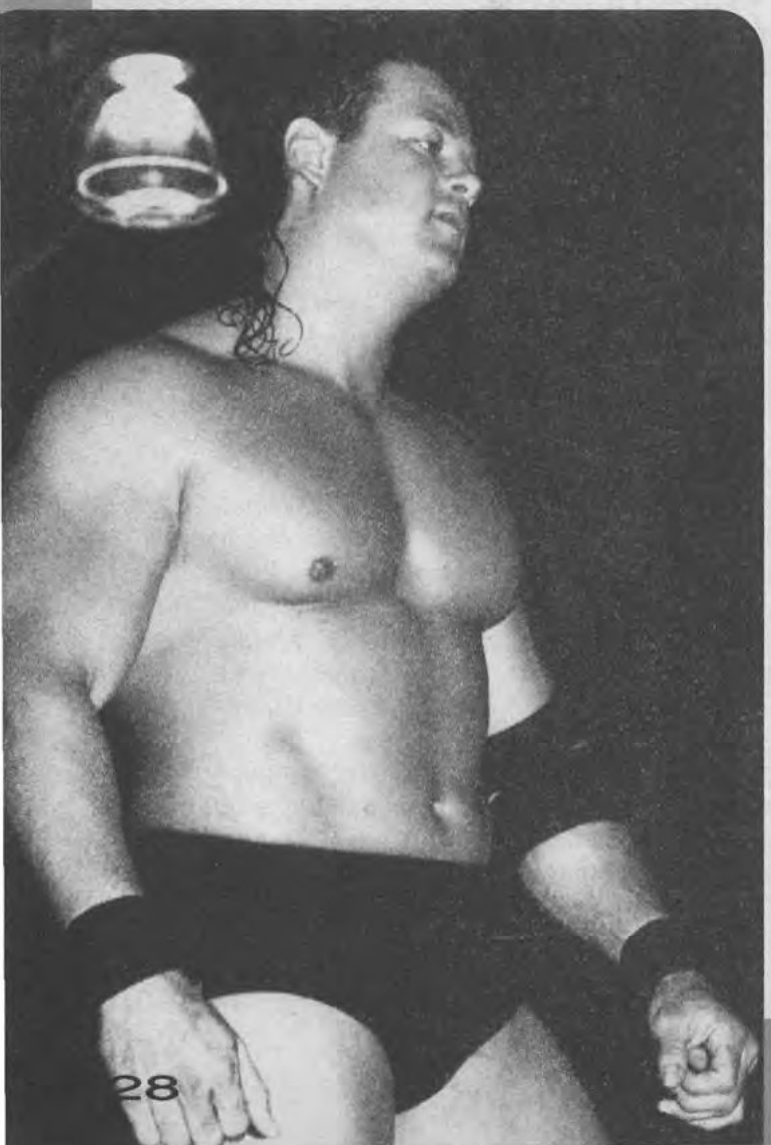
Something that I feel I have to do. I have to be the best. I want to be the best at what I do, and being champion proves that you are the best at what you do

NOW *THIS* IS REALLY AWESOME ...

The fact that I can get up on that top rope, balance myself, fly off of it, balance other people on the top rope, power bomb them off of it. My balancing ability is awesome

TYSON OR ALI ...

Muhammad Ali, of course



THE NICENESS OF THIS PERSON REALLY SURPRISED ME ...

When it comes right down to it, that's the majority of the professional wrestlers that I meet up with. Everybody is pretty nice and pretty cool

FAVORITE MONTH ...

Any month in the summer, because I love the warm weather

THIS IS MY BEST APRIL FOOL'S DAY JOKE EVER ...

It's an April Fool's Day joke, but I didn't do it on April Fool's Day. My wife and I were driving home one time. I asked her to stay awake with me while I was driving to help me stay awake, because it was getting pretty late at night. I was driving back from some independent show. My wife couldn't stay awake, so I jumped on the brakes and went *"Ahhhhhh!"* and screamed, and she thought we were getting into a crash. It was pretty wrong of me to do that. I thought it was funny at the time, but it was a little too serious

I'M AFRAID TO DO THIS ...

I'm not afraid to do anything

IF I COULD BE SOMEBODY ELSE FOR A DAY, I'D BE ...

Neil Armstrong. He walked on the moon

IF I HAD A NICKNAME, IT WOULD BE ...

I don't know. I can't think of a nickname for me. I'm already awesome

I PREFER ...

Filet mignon

THIS IS WHERE I WAS ON DECEMBER 31, 1999, AT 11:59 AND 59 SECONDS P.M. ...

At home with my wife

THIS ANIMAL SCARES THE HELL OUT OF ME ...

If I was in the water, a great white shark

I WILL OWN THIS BEFORE I DIE ...

My house

I CAN NEVER SPELL THIS WORD RIGHT ...

Business

edge

I IDOLIZED THESE PEOPLE GROWING UP ...
Mom and Kiss

I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THIS ...
My leather coat

SILLIEST THING I'VE EVER DONE TO GET A LAUGH ...
Jumped out of a second story window into a snow bank

I'D NEVER DO THIS TO MY HAIR ...
Put black streaks in it again

FAVORITE JUNK FOOD ...
Chocolate chip cookies

IF I HAD A WEEK TO MYSELF, I'D DO THIS ...
Go to Australia and try to learn how to surf

THE WEIRDEST THING THAT HAS HAPPENED DURING ONE OF MY RING ENTRANCES ...
I was in Cleveland and about to walk out when Road Dogg pulled my tights down to my ankles just as the spotlight came on

FAVORITE NHL ENFORCERS ...
Tie Domi and Dave Semenko

IT IMMEDIATELY ATTRACTS ME TO A WOMAN ...
Her eyes

IT'S A TALENT I HAVE THAT FEW PEOPLE KNOW ABOUT ...
I like to draw

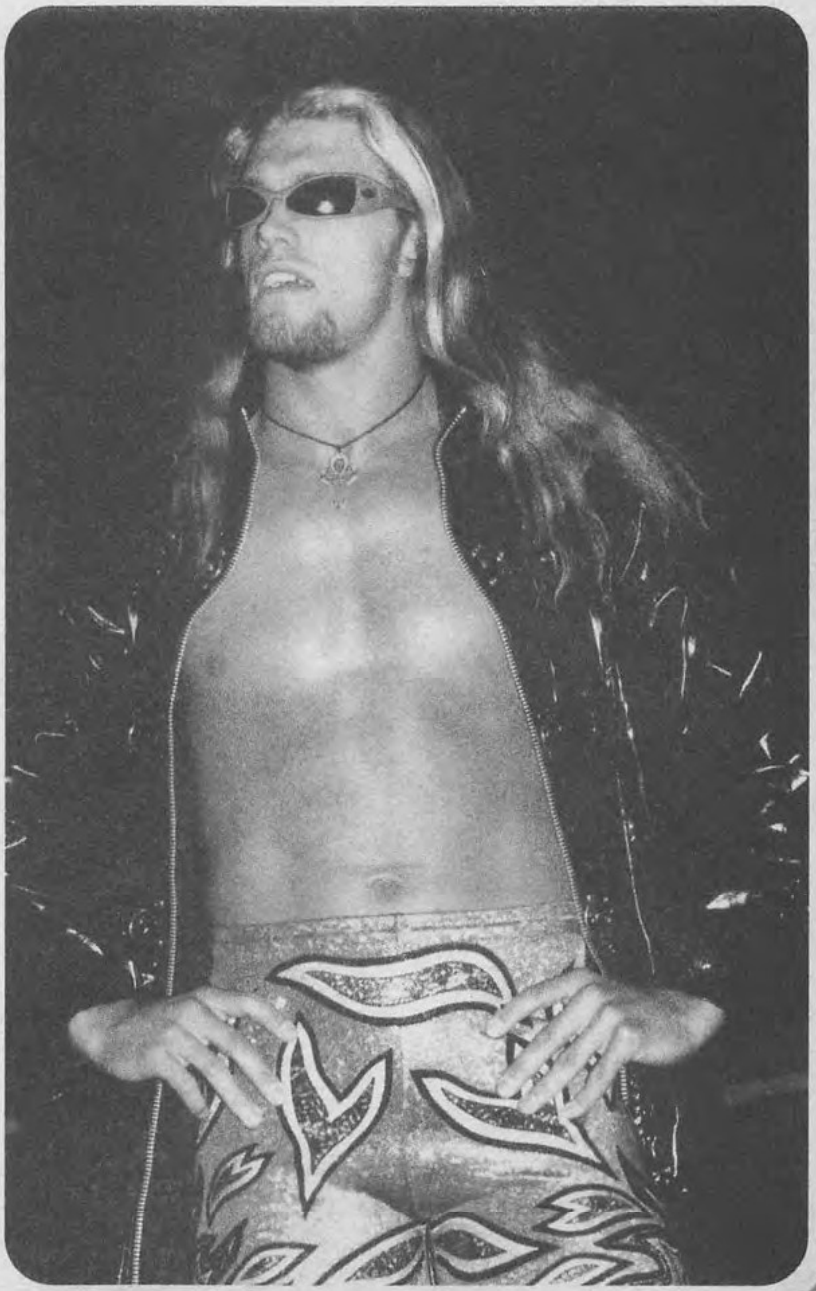
THESE CDS ARE IN MY CD PLAYER RIGHT NOW ...
S & M by Metallica, *Falling To Pieces* by Faith No More, and *Californication* by The Red Hot Chili Peppers

I'D LOVE TO DO THIS FOR THE REST OF MY LIFE ...
Relax on the beach with my dog and family

THE BEST PART OF BEING IN THE *HIGHLANDER* MOVIE ...
Making friends and being able to say I was in Romania

I ALWAYS HATED THIS SUBJECT IN SCHOOL ...
Math

GREAT ATHLETES I'D LIKE TO MEET ...
Barry Sanders and Wayne Gretzky



hulk hogan

NOTHING GETS ME MORE PUMPED THAN THIS ...
Hearing the cheers of all the "Hulkamaniacs" in the crowd

AFTER SO MANY YEARS, WRESTLING IS STILL FUN BECAUSE ...
I get to beat the hell out of Ric Flair and Lex Luger whenever I want

THE BIGGEST DRAWBACK OF BEING HULK HOGAN IS ...
It's all good, dude!

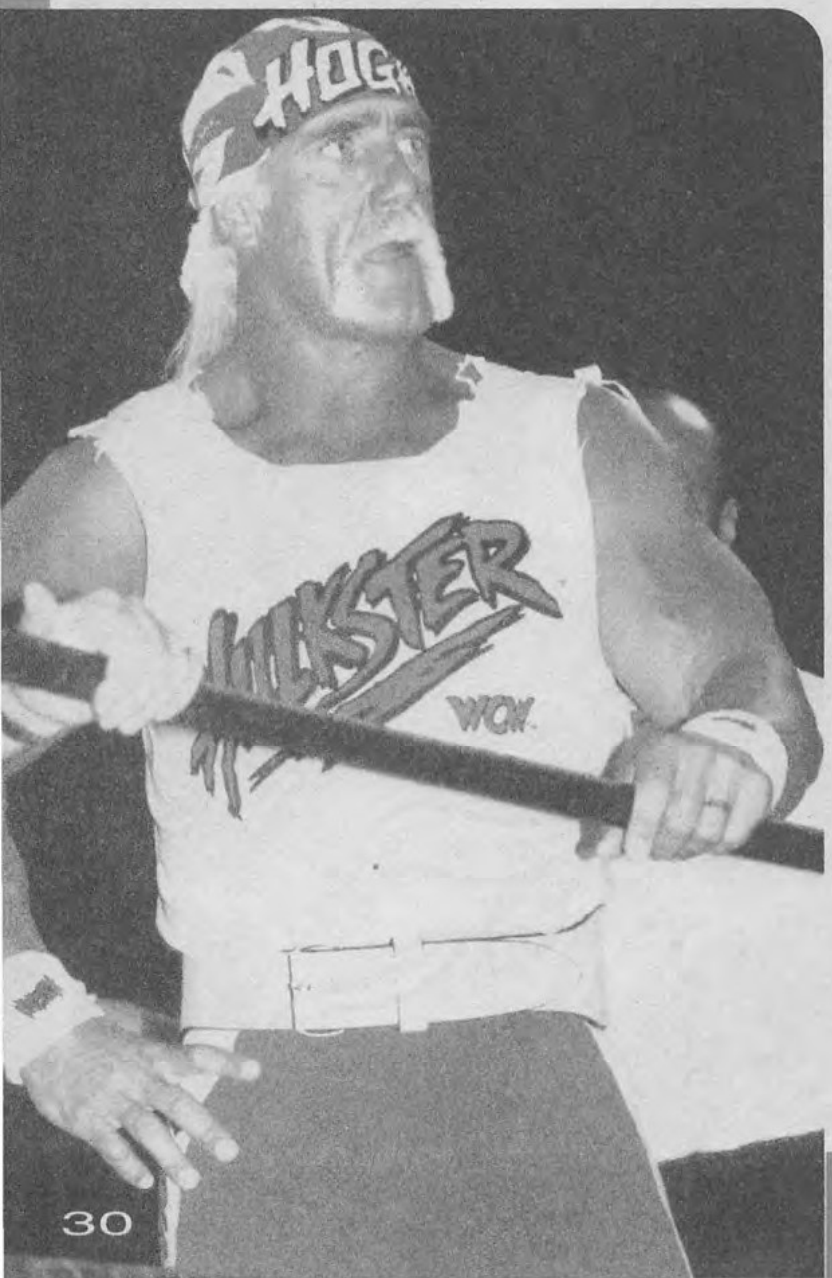
ONE TOY I JUST CAN'T DO WITHOUT ...
My motorcycle. Can't do without my bike!

MY NUMBER-ONE PRIORITY IN THE WRESTLING BUSINESS IS ...
Staying healthy

THIS GUY HAS HAD A PROFOUND IMPACT ON MY CAREER ...
Jimmy Hart

THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENT IN PRO WRESTLING HISTORY WAS ...
The Monday night wars on cable-TV. They elevated the entire sport

MORE WRESTLERS SHOULD BE LIKE THIS GUY ...
Dallas Page. He's the most dedicated wrestler I know



THE FIRST THRILL I EVER FELT IN A WRESTLING RING WAS ...
Wrestling Bob Backlund for the WWF World title in 1981

I WOULDN'T WANT TO FACE THIS MAN IN THE RING AGAIN ...
Andre the Giant

THIS MAKES LIFE ON THE ROAD A LITTLE MORE TOLERABLE ...
Knowing I'll able to spend some time with my children when I get home

THE BIGGEST CHALLENGE FACING WCW RIGHT NOW IS ...
Finding more time for the "Hulkster" on *Nitro*

THIS WRESTLING MOMENT WILL STAY IN MY MIND FOREVER ...
The Silverdome and 93,000 pumped up fans

THE FIRST THING I'LL BE DOING AFTER I RETIRE IS ...
Giving my 24-inch pythons a few days off

HULK HOGAN WILL GO DOWN IN HISTORY AS ...
The man who opened the door for professional wrestling to go mainstream

scotty too hotty

I REALLY ADMIRE THIS PERSON ...
Shawn Michaels

WANT TO MAKE ME HAPPY? THEN DO THIS ...
Let me be in the WWF forever

FAVORITE TOY I HAD WHEN I WAS A KID ...
Zippy the stuffed monkey

FAVORITE RECORD OF ALL-TIME ...
Poison, *Open Up And Say Ahh*

I ALMOST GOT IN REALLY BIG TROUBLE WHEN I ...
Set my waterbed on fire

I FEEL PITY FOR THEM ...
WCW

THIS MIGHT SURPRISE PEOPLE ABOUT ME ...
I love Disney

THE LAST PERSON IN THE WORLD I'D EVER TRUST ...
Anyone who says, "Trust me"

BIGGEST GAMBLE THAT I EVER TOOK ...
Becoming a wrestler

CRANK UP THE STEREO AND PUT ON SOME ...
Jimmy Buffett

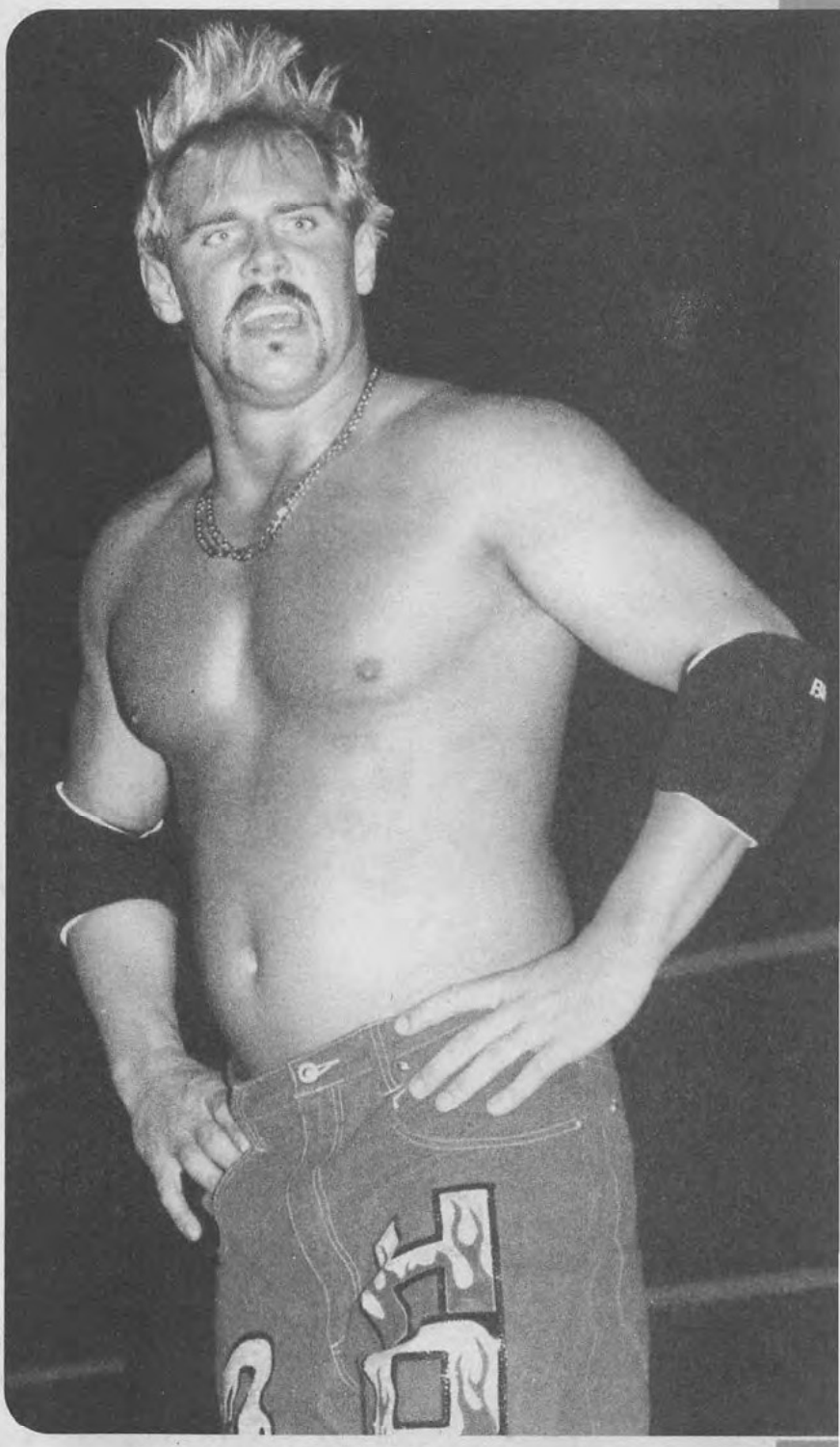
WHEN I'M ON THE ROAD I'M ALWAYS ...
Tired

FAVORITE MIDNIGHT SNACK ...
Quesadillas

IF I COULD TRADE PLACES WITH ANYONE IN HISTORY, IT WOULD BE ...
Walt Disney

FAVORITE FICTIONAL CHARACTER ...
Mickey Mouse

IF PEOPLE SAY THIS ABOUT ME, IT HURTS MY FEELINGS ...
The only reason I'm over is because of Rikishi



matt hardy

THIS GOES THROUGH MY MIND WHEN I'M IN MID-AIR ...
I hope the cameras don't miss this and do get a good shot of my move

THE HARDEST THING I EVER HAD TO DO ...
Get used to training and eating right on the road

THIS REALLY ANNOYS ME ABOUT MY BROTHER ...
Jeff doesn't worry about anything like getting places on time, being at the airport in plenty of time, tomorrow, etc.

BLONDE, BRUNETTE, OR REDHEAD ...
Blonde

BEST WAY TO PASS TIME WHILE TRAVELING ...
By playing on my new laptop computer

FAVORITE NON-WRESTLING TV SHOW ...
I only have time to watch pro wrestling shows

I IDOLIZED THIS PERSON WHILE GROWING UP ...
My dad

I'LL ONLY LISTEN TO THIS TYPE OF MUSIC ...
Rock—mainly alternative

I COULD WATCH THIS MOVIE A THOUSAND TIMES ...
Heathers, The Crow, or *Powder*

THIS PERSON IS ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING I WANT TO SAY ...
Aaron Decker

FAVORITE PREMATCH FOOD ...
Chinese chicken and broccoli

THE FIRST THING I NOTICE ABOUT A WOMAN ...
Her body

THIS PERSON CAN ALWAYS MAKE ME LAUGH ...
Road Dogg

IF I WASN'T A WRESTLER, I'D BE DOING THIS ...
Working in engineering

I APPRECIATE THIS THE MOST ...
Good health

jeff hardy

THIS GOES THROUGH MY MIND WHEN I'M IN MID-AIR ...
I hope I can get up after I land

THE HARDEST THING I EVER HAD TO DO ...
Get over my homesickness

THIS REALLY ANNOYS ME ABOUT MY BROTHER ...
Matt always agrees to too many appearances without my approval

BLONDE, BRUNETTE, OR REDHEAD ...
Blonde

BEST WAY TO PASS THE TIME WHILE TRAVELING ...
Sleeping, reading, and writing

FAVORITE NON-WRESTLING TV SHOW ...
The Croc Files

I IDOLIZED THIS PERSON WHILE GROWING UP ...
My father

I'LL ONLY LISTEN TO THIS TYPE OF MUSIC ...
I refuse to listen to just one type of music

I COULD WATCH THIS MOVIE A THOUSAND TIMES ...
Powder

THIS PERSON IS ALWAYS WILLING TO LISTEN TO ANYTHING I WANT TO SAY ...
Johnny Yow

FAVORITE PREMATCH FOOD ...
McDonald's Big Mac

THE FIRST THING I NOTICE ABOUT A WOMAN ...
Her clothes

THIS PERSON CAN ALWAYS MAKE ME LAUGH ...
Road Dogg

IF I WASN'T A WRESTLER, I'D BE DOING THIS ...
Attempting to race motorcross professionally

I APPRECIATE THIS THE MOST ...
Health

dawn marie

THIS MAKEUP STAYS ON BEST DURING CAT-FIGHTS ...

I like to use Revlon Colorstay

WHEN I'M NOT IN FRONT OF THE CAMERA, I USUALLY WEAR THIS ...

I am usually in sweats. I like to be comfortable

MY FAVORITE PART OF BEING A STAR ...

I feel that I am lucky to have a job that I love to do. It just so happens to place me on TV. I would say the best thing about being in the public eye is that I can now try to use my celebrity to benefit other people by doing charity work or talking at schools

THE DOWNFALL OF BEING A STAR ...

People expect you to be a certain way. There are a lot of expectations to fill (weight, appearance, work abilities). For example: When you are growing up, your parents have expectations of what kind of person you will become. We don't have to deal with just our two parents; we have to live up to the expectations of thousands

MOST PEOPLE DON'T KNOW THIS ABOUT ME ...

I love to read. I love to learn about things I don't know about. I also love to just stay home and do nothing. When I have time off, I love to stay home and spend time with my dogs and family

ON MY DAYS OFF, I USUALLY WAKE UP AT THIS TIME ...

I usually wake up at 9:30 to watch CNBC. I love to watch the stock market. I'm addicted to it

WHEN WAITING BEFORE A SHOW, I USUALLY OCCUPY MYSELF DOING THIS ...

I usually find a corner somewhere and think about what I have to do. Being prepared is the best way to avoid disaster

I'D LOVE TO SPEND A FEW DAYS VACATIONING HERE ...

My favorite place to be is at home. I feel the most comfortable there

THE ONLY WOMAN IN THE WORLD THAT IS MORE CLASSY THAN ME ...

I generally don't compare myself to others. I just try to be the best I can be

THIS CD IS IN MY CD PLAYER NOW ...

I am not a big fan of listening to music. I can say that in the headset I wear at the gym is a tape of lessons for trading stocks

MY FAVORITE MOVIE STARS ...

Winona Ryder and Harrison Ford

THIS IS THE MOST DIFFICULT PART OF BEING IN ECW ...

Being away all the time. Other than that, I love my job

FAVORITE JUNK FOOD ...

Pizza. I can eat it every day

FAVORITE CLOTHES DESIGNER ...

I like to buy my clothes from a store called Zara International. It is sort of a boutique type of store

I'D TRAVEL 1,000 MILES TO BUY THIS ...

Nothing

crowbar

If I could watch one actor's movies, it would be ...
Leslie Nielsen

This is one CD I couldn't live without ...
Metallica, *The Black Album*

David Flair is crazy about this ...
His crowbar

When I won the WCW World tag team title, I said to myself ...
I wonder how this belt is going to fit through my belt loop on my jeans?

One thing I'm really stubborn about ...
Getting up on time

I could eat this every day ...
Buffalo wings

I can't thank this person enough for his help ...
God

Most fans don't know this, but ...
That I have a degree in physical therapy

The main difference between the independents and WCW is ...
My WCW paychecks are the same regardless of show attendance

It's rotten to the core ...
Country music

I love this city ...
Las Vegas

The first thing I think of when I wake up is ...
What flavor Myoplex shake I'll have with breakfast

Don't sing this song to me ...
"Old Time Rock 'n' Roll" by Bob Seger

It energizes me ...
Listening to loud music

It's my favorite sport (after wrestling) ...
Football

jeff jarrett

FAVORITE MOVIE STAR ...
Clint Eastwood

THIS PERSON IS HILARIOUS ...
George W. Bush. He's reminds me of a Republican version of Ross Perot

IT'S HOW I EXPLAIN HOW TOUGH I AM ...
I hit you over the head with a guitar

BLONDE, BRUNETTE, OR REDHEAD ...
I'll take all three

DUMBEST THING ANYONE EVER SAID TO ME ...
"Goodbye"

I'LL NEVER FORGET THIS LESSON FROM MY CHILDHOOD ...
Always look out for number one

MY NEW ATTITUDE LETS ME DO THIS, AND I AM SO SORRY I DIDN'T DO IT BEFORE ...
Anything I damn well please

IF I HADN'T BEEN IN THE WRESTLING BUSINESS, I'D PROBABLY BE DOING THIS ...
I'm not sure, but I know I wouldn't be a country music singer

IT'S HOW I TELL HEAVY D AND BIG RON APART ...
I don't even try

I CAN ALWAYS USE ONE OF THESE ...
A nap

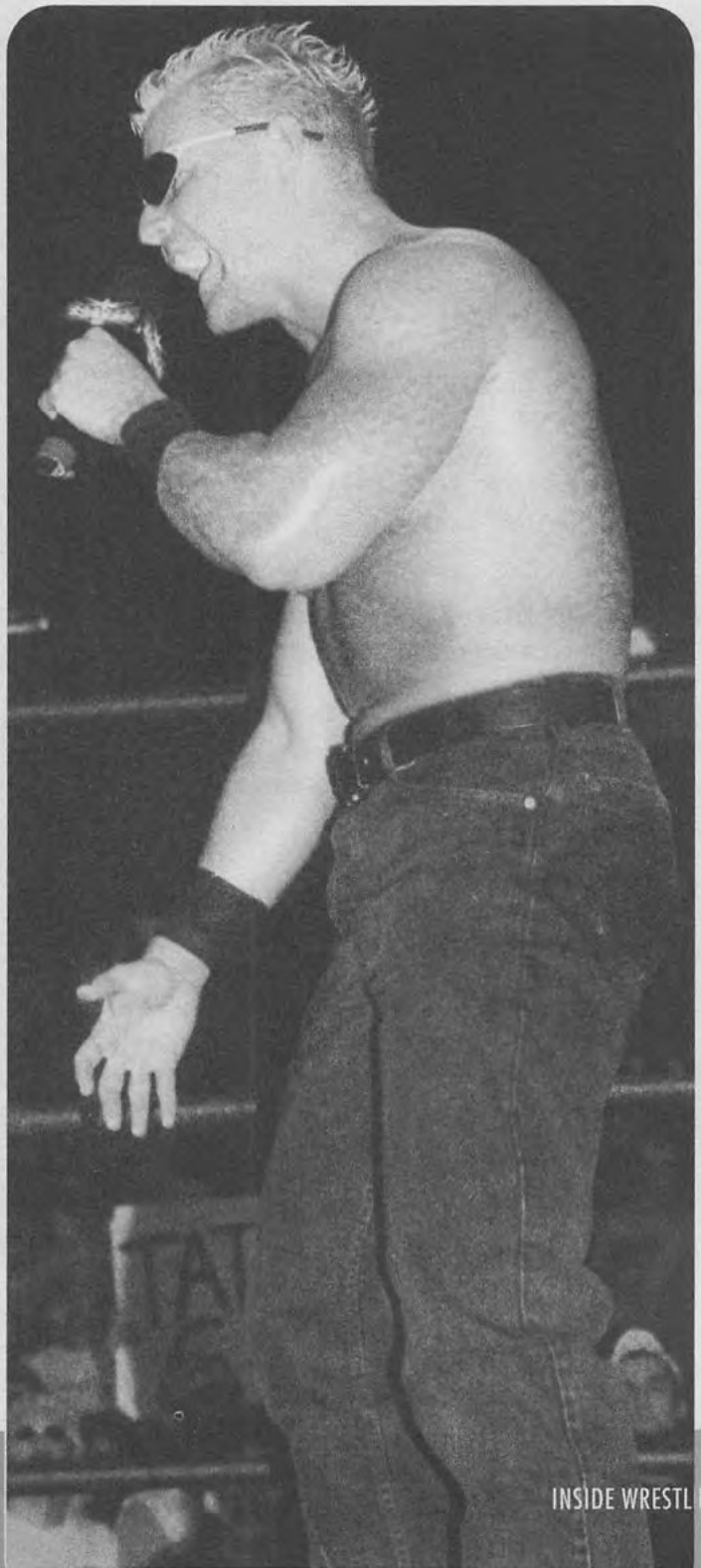
THIS MOVIE ALWAYS MAKES ME CRY ...
Shane

OTHER THAN THIS MAGAZINE, THE OTHER MAGAZINE THAT IS REQUIRED READING IN MY HOUSE ...
Maxim

IF I COULD BE ANYONE IN HISTORY, I'D BE ...
Albert Einstein

THE ONE THING THAT I'D CHANGE ABOUT MY APPEARANCE ...
Nothing. I already had my hair cut

IF I COULD PICK A GUY FROM THE PAST TO BE MY TAG TEAM PARTNER, IT WOULD BE ...
Jackie Fargo



dino

On 55 m.p.h. roads, I drive this fast ...
80

This is the one thing that I never should have done ...
To be honest, I really shouldn't say, because I could get in trouble

Flair or Hogan ...
They both suck

To this day, I still can't believe ...
That I haven't beaten either Flair or Hogan up

First album that I ever bought ...
AC/DC, *Back In Black*

Most disgusting thing that I've ever tasted ...
My own dip. I have drank my own dip ... by accident

This person always makes me laugh ...
No one really makes me laugh all the time, but I crack a smile when I watch Konnan

I hear the word "overrated" and this comes to mind ...
Tommy Dreamer

When I go to the mall, this is the first store that I stop in ...
I don't go to the mall

If I could afford it, I would buy myself ...
The Henry Ford and Graceland estates. I would buy them, and then I'd mow them down. And I'd drive the bulldozer

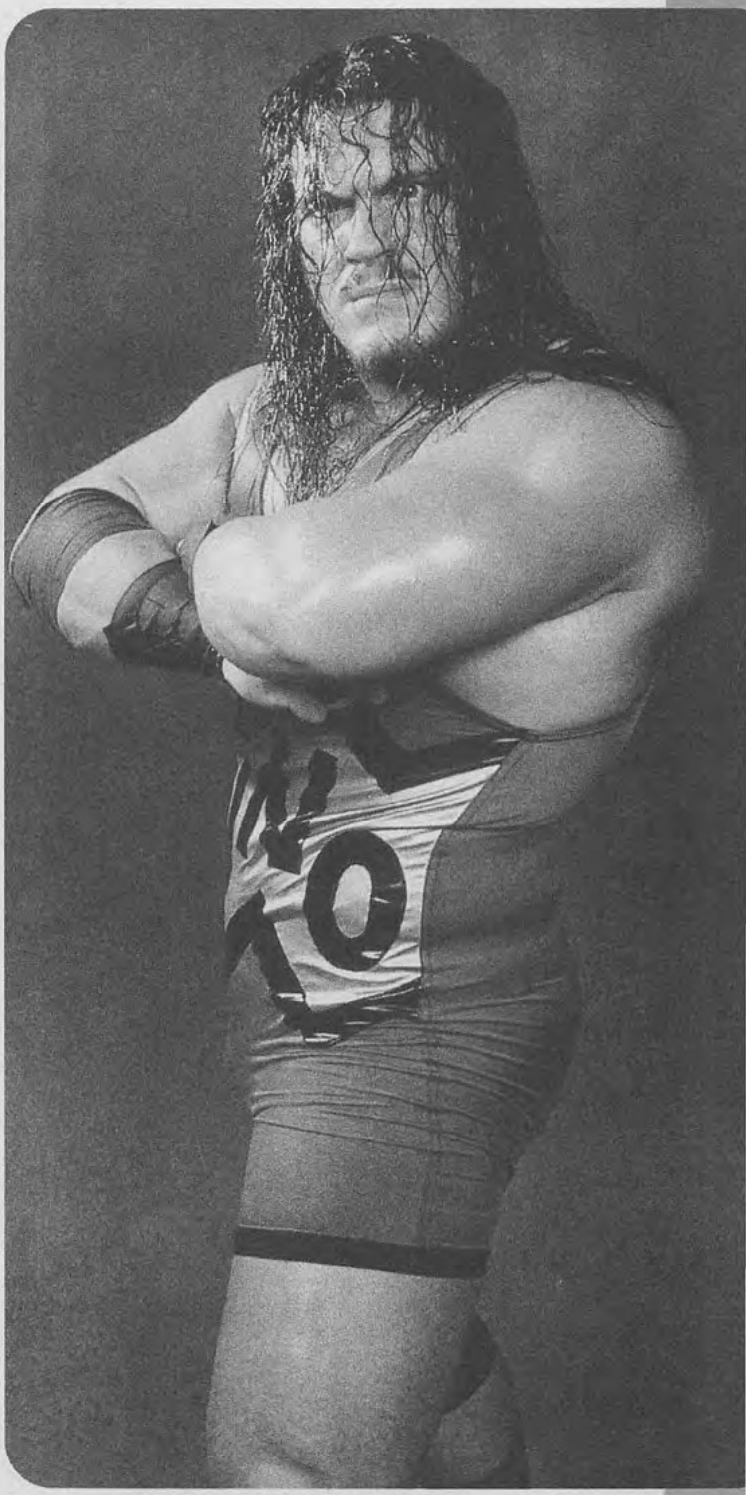
I could stare at her all day long ...
Arnold Schwarzenegger's wife, Maria Shriver

If I wasn't a wrestler, I'd be ...
In jail

If I could invite any three people to dinner, I would pick ...
Sabu, Sandman, and "The American Dream" Dusty Rhodes so I could beat the hell out of all of them

You can always count on me for this ...
Beating the crap out of someone

***Simpsons* or *South Park* ...**
They both suck

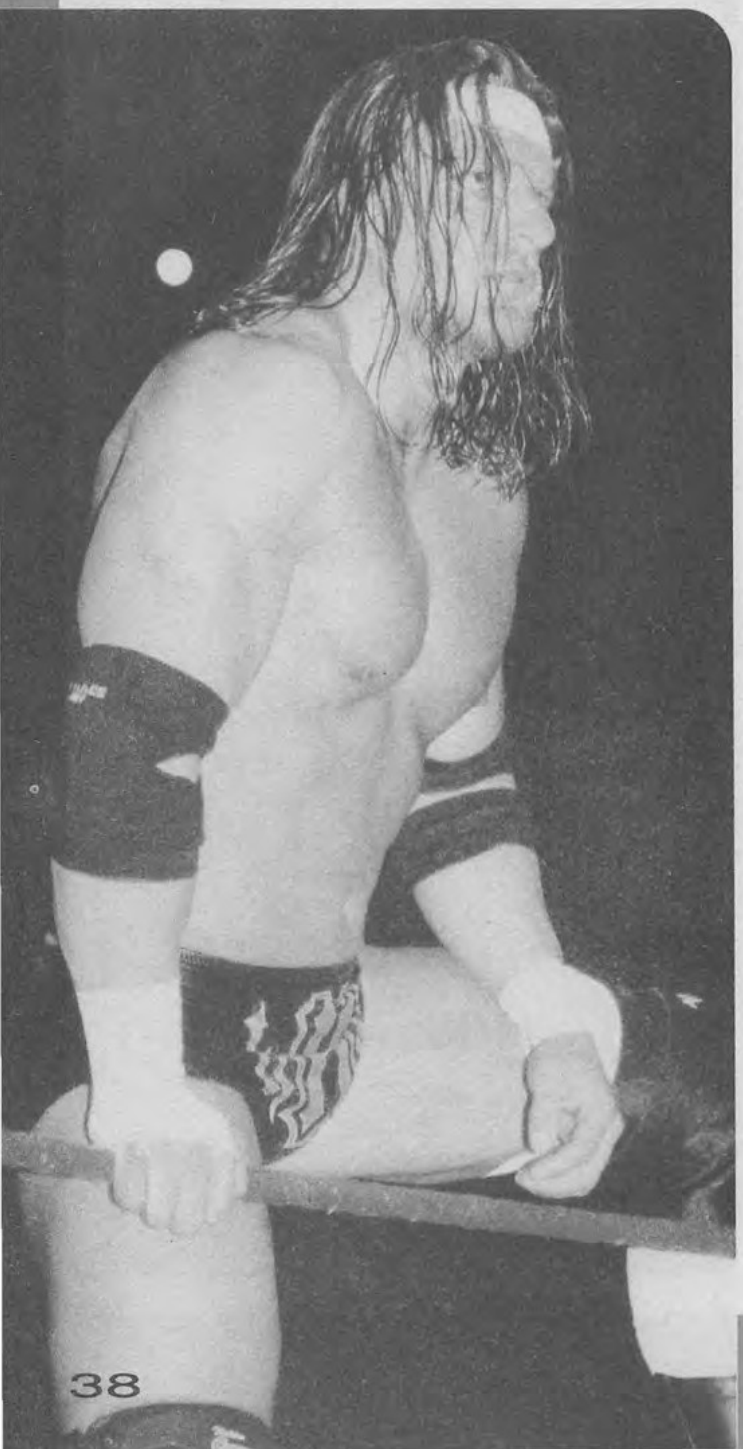


triple-h

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT PEOPLE STILL SAY THIS ABOUT ME ...
That I'm not as hardcore as Mick Foley

I WISH I COULD SPEND A LOT MORE TIME HERE ...
Home

THIS IS MY FAVORITE FAST FOOD RESTAURANT ...
Superstars like me can't be putting the garbage you get at fast food places in our bodies all the time



MTV OR VH1 ...
MTV

THIS WAS THE BEST PRACTICAL JOKE EVER ...
I wouldn't call it a joke, but me and Steph sure put one over on her old man at Armageddon

I'VE NEVER SEEN A BODY QUITE LIKE HERS ...
Mae Young

IT'S "THE GAME'S" FAVORITE GAME ...
Strip poker—as long as you're playing with the right people

HE OR SHE IS A LOT FUNNIER THAN MOST PEOPLE REALIZE ...
Midian

LENO OR LETTERMAN ...
I'll take the first one who calls me and begs me to be on his show

I REALLY SHOULD TAKE THE TIME TO LEARN MORE ABOUT THIS ...
Financial planning, since the entire McMahon empire is going to be all mine someday

I TRY NOT TO MISS A SINGLE ONE OF THIS TEAM'S GAMES ...
I rarely have time to watch sports on TV

WHAT A RUSH ...
Hearing all the fans out there expressing their love for me at each and every show we do

I DON'T WASTE A LOT OF TIME TRYING TO FIGURE THIS OUT ...
Politics

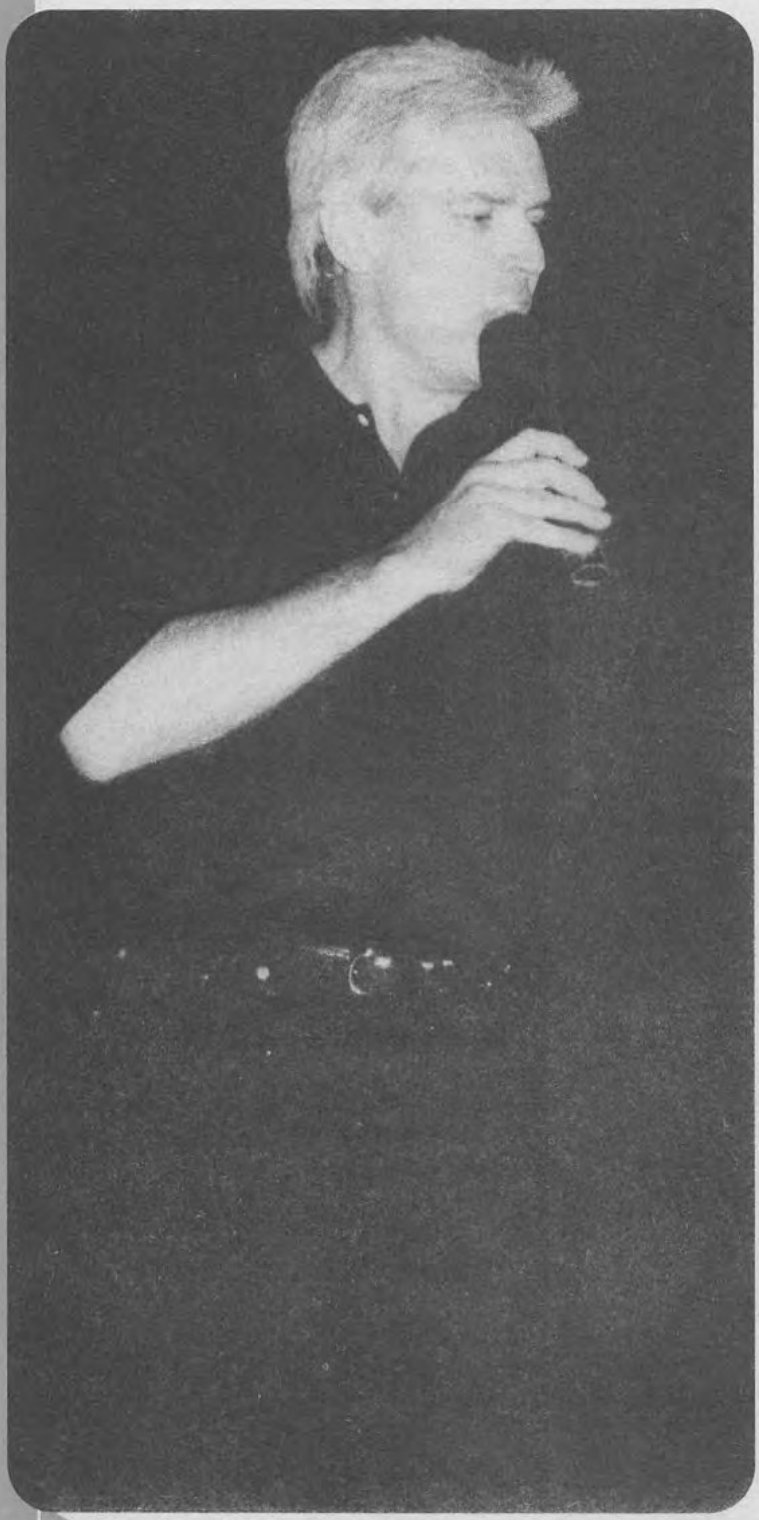
THIS PERSON GETS WAY TOO MUCH MEDIA ATTENTION ...
The lady who married the millionaire on *Who Wants To Marry A Multi-Millionaire*

FUNNIEST WRESTLING NAME I'VE HEARD ...
There are a lot of them, but The Ringmaster kind of stands out

eric bischoff

WORST ODOR THAT I'VE EVER SMELLED ...
Burning rubber

PAC MAN OR SPACE INVADERS ...
Pac Man



I CAN'T STAND PEOPLE WHO DO THIS ...
Interrupt

WHEN FLYING, I LIKE A WINDOW OR AISLE SEAT ...
I like the pilot's seat. I'm a pilot, so I have to say that

I CAN'T BELIEVE PEOPLE DO THIS FOR A LIVING ...
Surgery

I CAN'T BELIEVE THIS PERSON BECAME A STAR ...
Linda Tripp

FAVORITE NON-WRESTLING ATHLETE ...
Muhammad Ali

AFTER ALL THESE YEARS, I STILL CAN'T FIGURE OUT ...
How a microwave works

MY POLITICAL PHILOSOPHY ...
Conservative and then some

I USED TO THINK THIS PERSON WAS NORMAL, BUT NOW I KNOW BETTER ...
My wife

NOW *THAT* WAS A GUTSY MOVE ...
The XFL

IT'S TIME FOR PEOPLE TO REALIZE ...
That wrestling is a legitimate form of entertainment. It's been around from the beginning of television time, and it will be around forever

GOTTA TRY IT ...
Skydiving

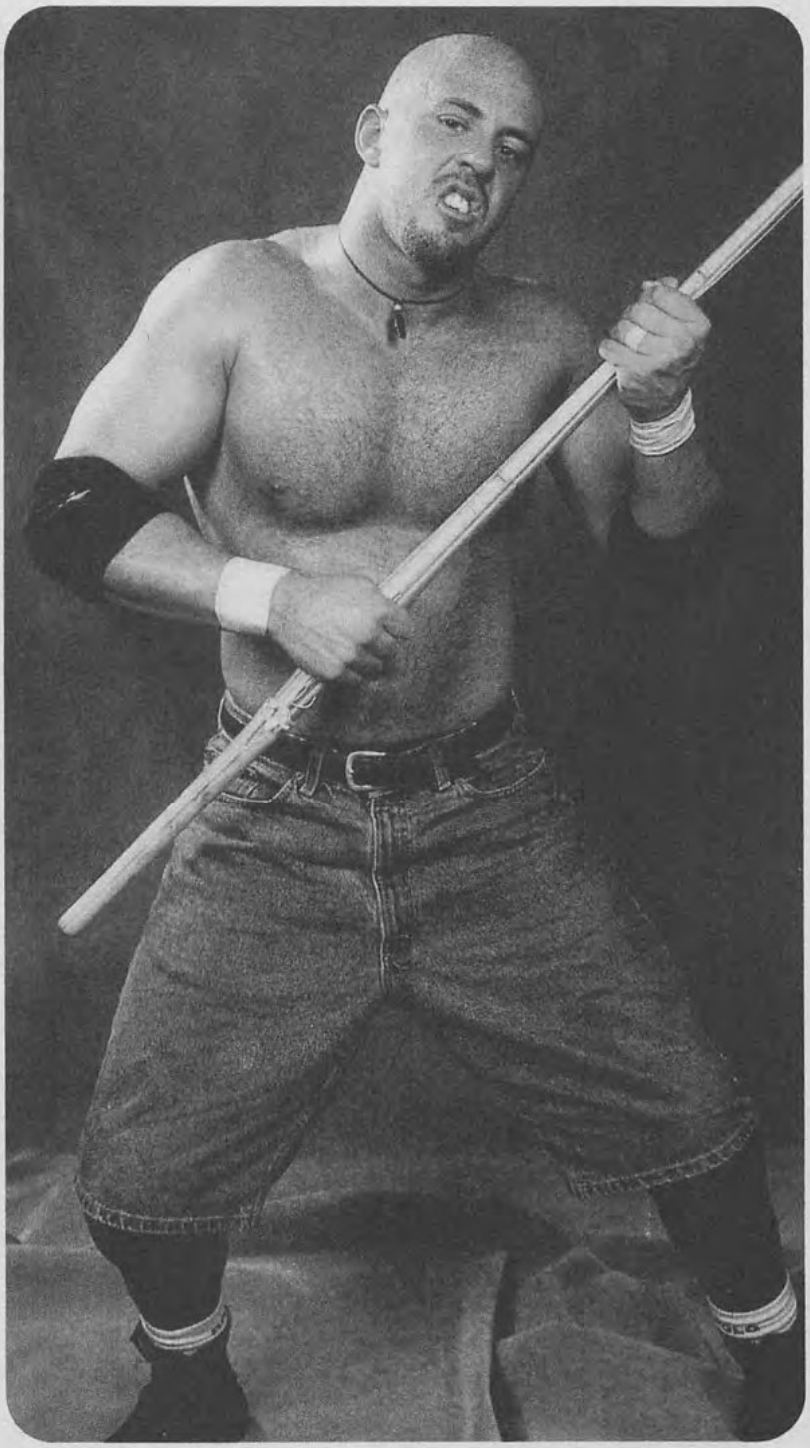
THIS REALLY TICKS ME OFF ...
Constantly being misquoted

I COULD HAVE PLAYED THIS MOVIE ROLE PRETTY WELL ...
Either the Nick Nolte or Eddie Murphy role from the original *48 Hours*

justin credible

PEANUTS OR POPCORN ...
Popcorn

THIS IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL PLACE THAT I'VE SEEN ...
The Florida coast



THESE ARE FOUR ALBUMS THAT I'LL LISTEN TO UNTIL I DIE ...
Queen, *Night At The Opera*; Kiss, *Alive*; Garth Brooks, *Double-Platinum Live*; Metallica, *Black Album*

THIS REALLY IS JUST INCREDIBLE ...
My ability to take a butt-kicking

IF I HAD SUPERMAN'S POWERS, I WOULD ...
Fly around the world and forget my problems

THIS IS WHAT I DO AFTER A WRESTLING CARD ...
Collapse and do nothing

FAVORITE SUPERMODEL ...
Cindy Crawford

I CAN PICTURE MYSELF BEHIND THE WHEEL OF A ...
Viper

SHE COULD KICK MY TAIL IN ...
My wife

THIS WAS MY FAVORITE TOY ...
Star Wars pinball machine

IN HIGH SCHOOL, I WAS A ...
Total nerd

IF I OWNED A TIME MACHINE, I WOULD ...
Go back to the '50s, because I've always wanted to see Elvis

IF I GREW MY HAIR OUT, PEOPLE WOULD CONFUSE ME WITH ...
Jerry Seinfeld

DON'T EVER TRY THIS AT HOME ...
"That's Incredible" tombstone piledriver

I WISH I HAD THIS PERSON'S HOME PHONE NUMBER ...
Bret Hart

booker

THIS IS THE FIRST THING I DO WHEN I GET HOME FROM A LONG ROAD TRIP ...
Take my shirt and tie off and take a nice, hot shower

IT WOULD BE A COMPLIMENT TO BE COMPARED TO THIS WRESTLER ...
Bret Hart

I REALLY MUST MAKE A POINT OF SPENDING MORE TIME WITH THIS PERSON ...
My wife

PEOPLE CAN TELL I AM REALLY ANGRY WHEN ...
I'm silent. I don't talk much when I'm mad

I ADMIRE THIS QUALITY IN STEVIE RAY ...
He's the big brother I always wanted

I CAN'T STAND LISTENING TO THIS PERSON TALK ...
Disco Inferno

I WISH I COULD USE THIS SONG AS MY ENTRANCE MUSIC ...
"Hellrazor" by Tupac Shakur

THE ONE THING I CANNOT TOLERATE FROM OTHER PEOPLE ...
Thinking they are better than everyone else

MY LIFE WOULD HAVE TURNED OUT DIFFERENTLY IF I HAD NOT DONE THIS ...
Listened to Stevie Ray. He's the reason I'm where I am today

PROFESSIONAL WRESTLING HAS TAUGHT ME THIS LESSON ...
Life is very short

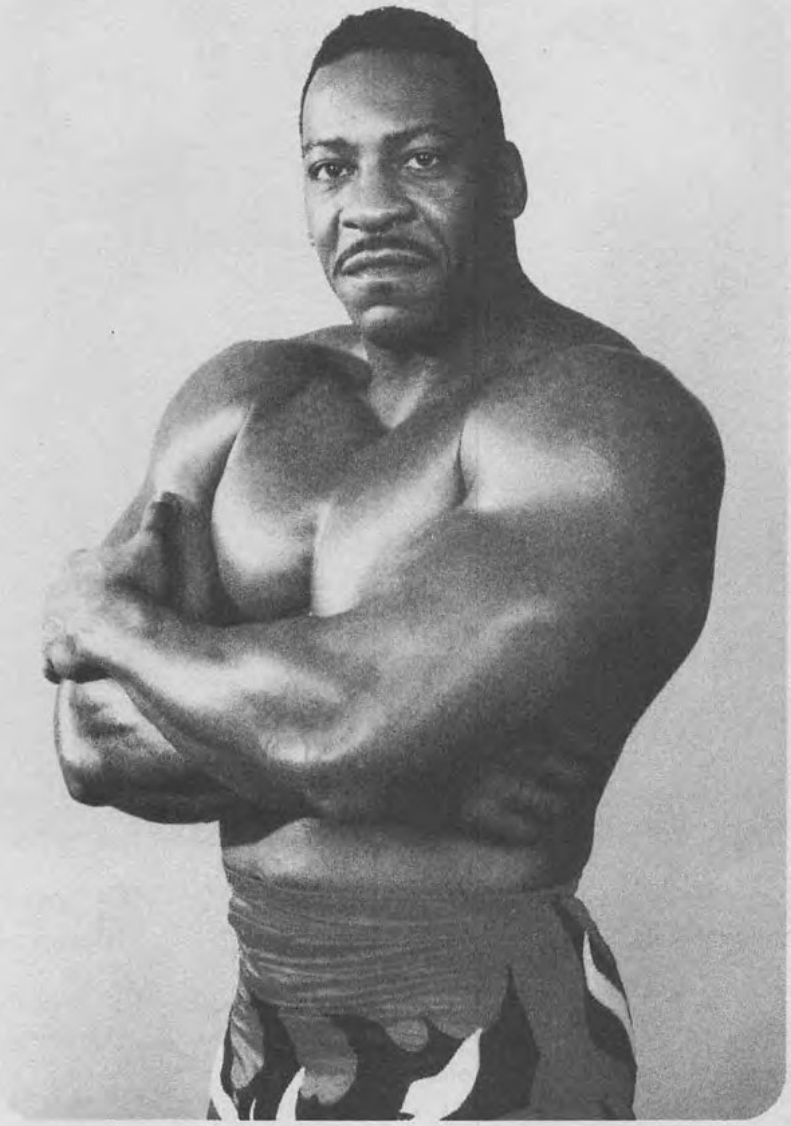
THIS ASPECT OF MY LIFE WILL ALWAYS BE OFF-LIMITS TO THE FANS AND THE MEDIA ...
The details of my personal life

AFTER HARLEM HEAT, THE GREATEST TAG TEAM EVER HAS TO BE ...
The Midnight Express

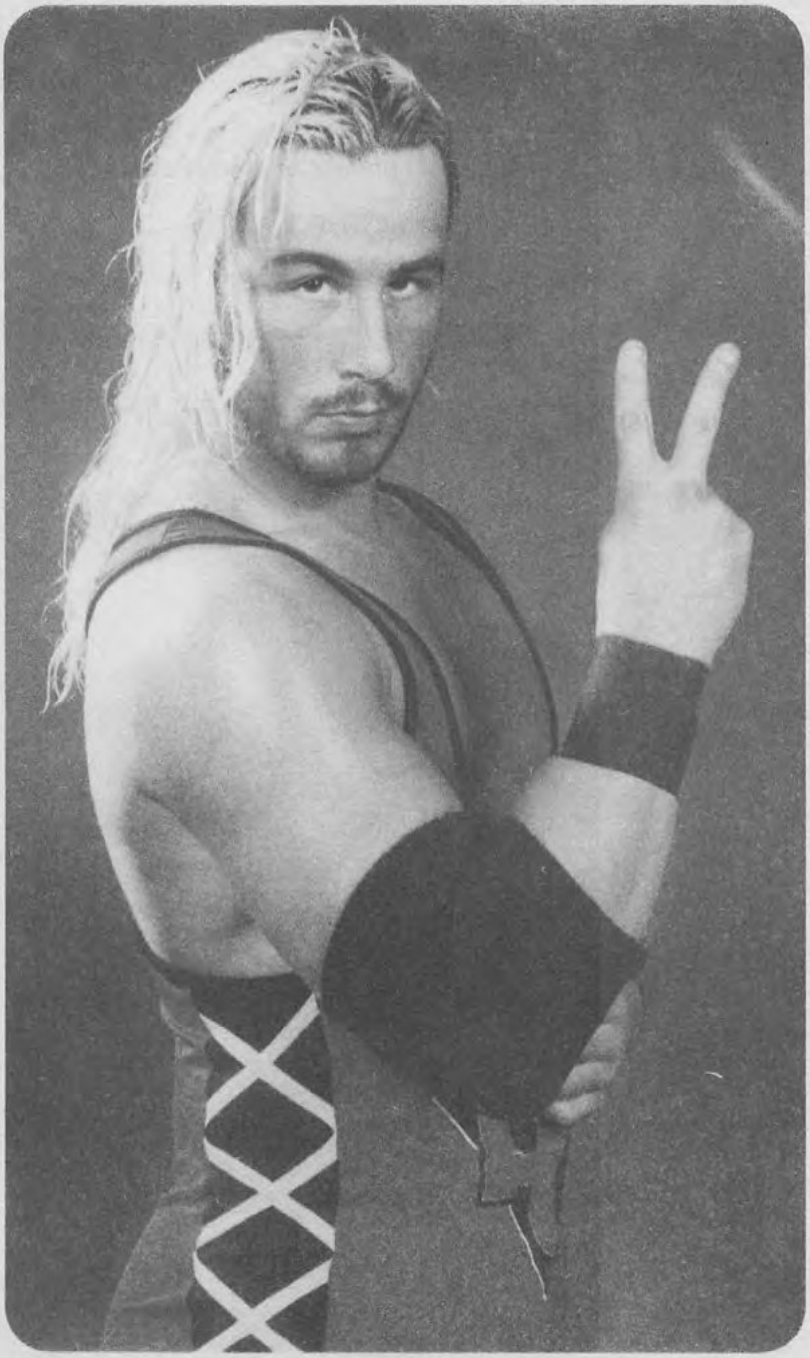
I HAVE NO TIME TO GET MIXED UP IN THIS ...
The politics of professional wrestling

THIS PERSON CRACKS ME UP WITHOUT FAIL ...
Ernest "The Cat" Miller

THE CROWD IN THIS TOWN IS ALWAYS TOUGH TO PLEASE ...
Uniondale, New York. Don't ask me why. They're just tough



steve corino



REST OF MY LIFE, IT WOULD BE THIS ...
Spaghetti with my mother's sauce

THIS MAKES ME SMILE ...
Seeing my son when I come home from a road trip

THIS QUALITY ATTRACTS ME TO A WOMAN ...
A good personality

I ONLY REGRET THIS ...
Not getting into wrestling earlier

IF THIS WAS POSSIBLE, I'D DO IT ...
Ban all hardcore wrestling

THIS WENT THROUGH MY MIND WHEN I FIRST ENTERED THE ECW ARENA ...
What the heck am I doing here?

A LESSON I LEARNED FROM MY FAVORITE CARTOON CHARACTER ...
Wyle E. Coyote taught me to always tuck in your chin when falling so you'll never die

THE BEST THING ABOUT GOING ON THE ROAD ...
All-you-can-eat sushi bars

THIS MAKES ME SICK ...
Seeing blood

THIS FREAKS ME OUT ...
Any time I see Mahoney and New Jack in the ring together

FAVORITE SCHOOL SUBJECT ...
American history

I COULD READ THIS BOOK A THOUSAND TIMES ...
Shoeless Joe by W.P. Kinsella

IF I COULD EAT ONLY ONE FOOD FOR THE

WEIRDEST PERSON I'VE EVER MET ...
Raven

I SEE MYSELF DOING THIS IN 10 YEARS ...
Running a wrestling organization

I WOULD LOVE TO MEET THIS PERSON ...
Britney Spears

chris jericho

Iced tea or lemonade ...
Lemonade

The most worthless holiday ...
Groundhog Day

If I ever wrestle him again, it'll be too soon ...
Ciclope

I always thought I'd take this to the grave ...
I stole money from my mom's purse when I was eight

I wish I could invent ...
Wite-Out

Give me more ...
Lovin', baby

If my band's name wasn't Fozzy Osbourne, it would be ...
Great Caesar's Ghost

This was the hardest thing that I've ever tried ...
The shooting star press. I broke my arm while trying it in Smoky Mountain

This is what I would call the decade from 2000 to 2009 ...
The Y2J Extravaganza

If I were a comic book superhero, this would be the name of my sidekick ...
Carry My Bags Boy

I've used this lame pickup line ...
Hi, I'm new in town. Can I have directions to your place?

This is my worst nightmare ...
Running away with Gary Coleman

If I had Bill Gates' money, I would ...
Buy everyone in the world a Happy Meal

I don't do this, but everybody thinks I do ...
Act completely arrogant 100 percent of the time

Favorite aquatic activity ...
Tubing

"diamond" dallas page

KIMBERLY GETS ME MAD WHEN SHE DOES THIS ...
Acts condescending toward me

... BUT THIS MAKES IT ALL BETTER ...
When she changes her attitude

I'D KILL TO HAVE THIS GUY'S PHYSIQUE ...
Lex Luger

MY CIGAR OF CHOICE IS ...
Dominican would be A. Fuente. Cuban would be Cohiba

THIS PERSON GETS ME INTO MORE TROUBLE ...
Me

MY NEXT TATTOO IS GOING TO SAY ...
Nothing. I'm done getting tattoos

THE GREATEST THING ABOUT POINT PLEASANT, NEW JERSEY, IS ...
The memories

THIS HAS NO PLACE IN WRESTLING ...
Is there anything in society that hasn't found its way into the wrestling business yet?

THIS PERSON DESERVES TO FEEL THE *"BANG!"* EVERY DAY OF HIS/HER LIFE ...
Kimberly, but that's a different kind of bang

THE COOLEST PET I EVER OWNED WAS ...
Mingo, my pet Akita. He was 135 pounds and was just like me with fur

KIMBERLY WOULDN'T WANT ME TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT SINCE YOU'RE ASKING ...
I can't think of anything, but it's not because Kimberly will get mad. I say what I want to no matter what

IF I COULD BRING ANY PERSON BACK TO LIFE, IT WOULD BE ...
Jesus Christ. What I'd do to be able to talk to Him

I TAKE THIS FOR GRANTED EVEN THOUGH I KNOW I SHOULDN'T ...
I don't take anything for granted, because I know I shouldn't

EVANDER HOLYFIELD OR LENNOX LEWIS?
Lewis is the man, but I love Evander's heart. Evander

YOU LOVE ME, YOU HATE ME, BUT YOU'LL NEVER FORGET ME BECAUSE ...
I am the hardest-working "two-time, two-time" champion

kimberly

PAGE MAKES ME MAD WHEN HE ...
Invites people over to the house without telling me first

... BUT THIS MAKES IT ALL BETTER ...
When he takes me out to dinner

I MISS THIS MOST ABOUT THE *NITRO* GIRLS ...
Dancing for the fans with them

I'D LOVE TO BE ON THE COVER OF THIS MAGAZINE ...
Scientific American

THE ONE TALENT I DON'T HAVE BUT WISH I DID ...
I wish I could dance better

THE WORLD NEEDS MORE OF THIS ...
Definitely more world peace

I HATE DOING THIS EXERCISE WHEN I WORK OUT ...
I love them all the same

IF GOD WERE BUILDING THE PERFECT WOMAN, HE WOULD BORROW THIS FROM ME ...
My sense of adventure

I'D BE PERFECT FOR THIS MOVIE PART ...
I should have been Annie Savoy in the movie *Bull Durham*. It's the part Susan Sarandon played opposite Kevin Costner

IT'S THE ONLY CHARACTER FLAW I AM ASHAMED OF ...
I can be vain at times, but sometimes you have to be if you are in show business

PAGE WOULDN'T WANT ME TO TELL YOU THIS, BUT SINCE YOU'RE ASKING ...
He puts his hair in a little Fu Manchu ponytail when he goes to bed at night

I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY PEOPLE WORSHIP THIS PERSON ...
Ric Flair

LEATHER OR LACE?
Definitely lace

IF I WERE MAROONED ON AN ISLAND WITH ONE BOOK TO READ, ONE CD TO LISTEN TO, AND ONE MEAL TO EAT, THEY WOULD BE ...
The book would be *A Brief History Of Time* by Stephen Hawking. The CD would definitely be *Sade's Greatest Hits*, and the meal would be the calamari salad at the Asia de Cuba restaurant

HE OR SHE IS THE MOST COURAGEOUS PERSON I KNOW ...
Christopher Reeve

francine

WHAT BEING THE "QUEEN OF EXTREME" MEANS TO ME ...
Just going to the ring and doing my best so I can keep that title

FAVORITE FOOD ...
Pizza

THE HARDEST PART OF SPENDING YOUR LIFE ON THE ROAD ...
Not being able to be with family

I NEVER LEAVE HOME WITHOUT THIS ...
A credit card. You never know when you'll find a good sale

IT'S THE PERFECT PLACE TO SHOP ...
Victoria's Secret

I WILL NEVER DO THIS AGAIN ...
Not glue my top to myself before going to ringside

PEOPLE REFUSE TO BELIEVE THIS ABOUT ME ...
I'm not a big partier

THE SMELL I LOVE THE MOST IS THIS ...
Testosterone

I LOVE GETTING A BOUQUET OF THESE ...
Red roses with baby's-breath

I COULD STAY OUT ALL NIGHT IN THIS PLACE ...
A casino

I DIDN'T THINK I'D LIKE THIS, BUT I DO NOW ...
Sushi

MY FAVORITE PART OF A MAN ...
My second favorite part is the lips

I LOVE THIS CITY ...
Fort Lauderdale, Florida

IT'S THE PERFECT WAY TO RELAX ...
Sitting in a hot tub

IF THIS WAS POSSIBLE, I'D DO IT ...
Take a two-week cruise to the Bahamas

WRESTLING BARGAIN PACKS!

Bargain hunters, your time has come! This is the best back issue offer we've ever made—and the best we're going to make! Imagine … your favorite magazines for less than $1.50 per issue! It's true!

For a limited time, you can purchase grab bag bargain packs containing random issues of *Wrestling USA, Wrestling Classics, Pro Wrestling Illustrated Annual, Best Of The Wrestler, Wrestler Annual,* and *Sports Review Annual*, most of which are vintage issues from the 1980s and early-'90s. You don't get to choose the magazines we send, but you do choose between a grab bag containing 12 magazines or a grab bag containing six magazines!

Sold individually, these magazines would cost $5 apiece. For this special offer—and only while supplies last—you'll receive either 12 magazines for $16.95 (a savings of more than $43!) or six magazines for $12.95 (a savings of more than $17!). Postage is included!

What's the catch? There isn't one. We will put together the bargain packs, and while we'll try to maintain a variety (and we'll never repeat an issue in any given pack), we cannot allow substitutions or returns.

So don't delay! This offer is good only while supplies last!

NO SUBSTITUTIONS, SPECIAL REQUESTS, OR RETURNS ALLOWED

YES! I would like to get in on wrestling's ultimate back issue offer!

☐ I am enclosing $16.95 for a 12-issue bargain pack

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Send to:
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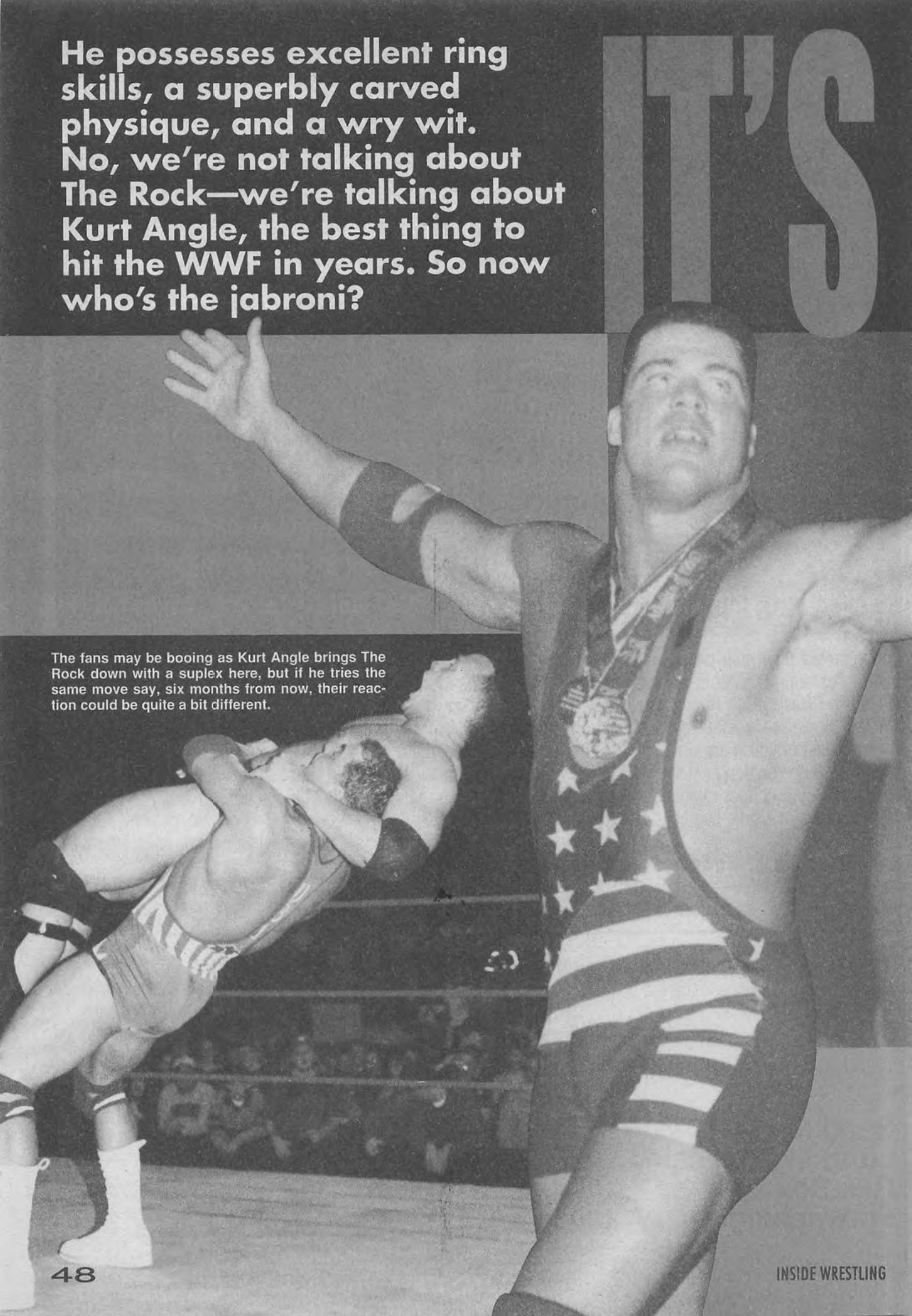
Prices apply in U.S. only. Canada and all foreign countries: $24.00 for 12-issue pack ($37.00 airmail); $16.15 for 6-issue pack ($23.35 airmail). International money orders in U.S. funds only for all orders outside U.S. Please allow 6-8 weeks for delivery.

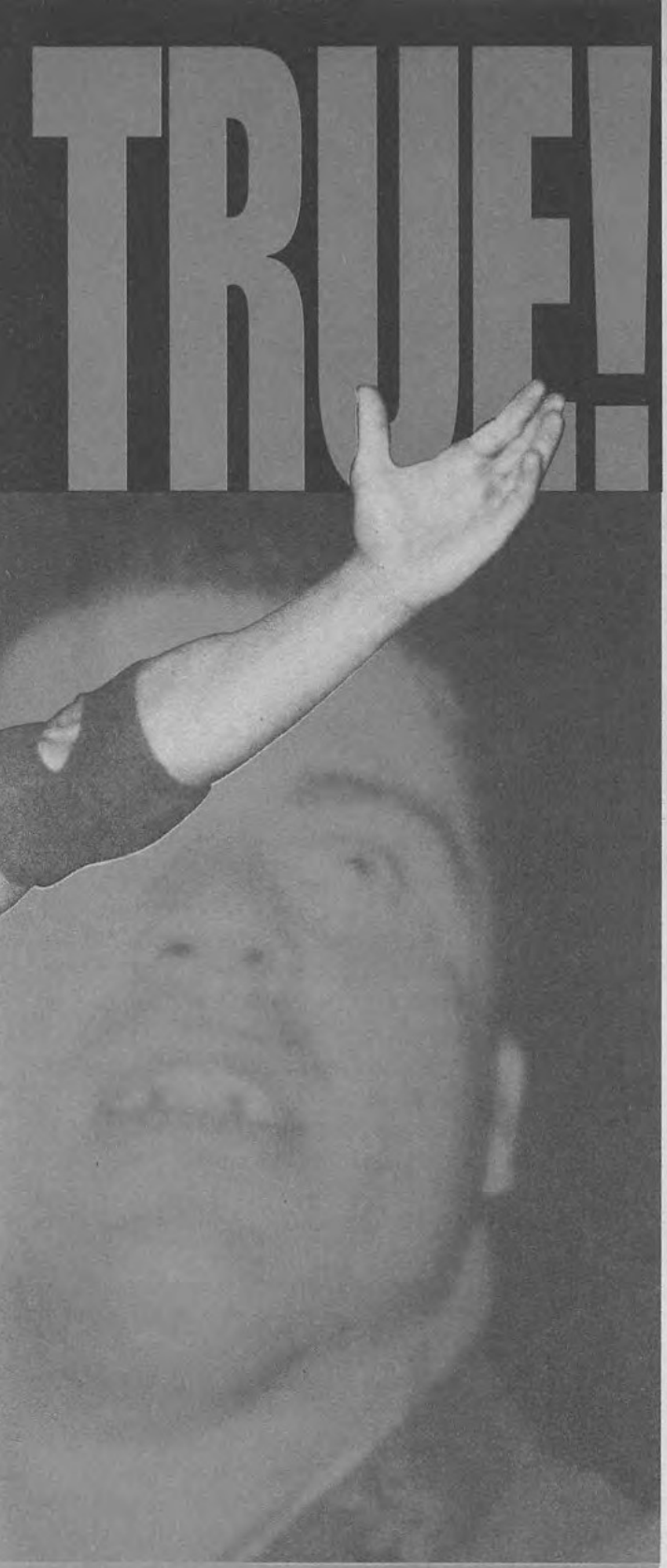
5096/8-99/2c

IT'S

He possesses excellent ring skills, a superbly carved physique, and a wry wit. No, we're not talking about The Rock—we're talking about Kurt Angle, the best thing to hit the WWF in years. So now who's the jabroni?



The fans may be booing as Kurt Angle brings The Rock down with a suplex here, but if he tries the same move say, six months from now, their reaction could be quite a bit different.



TRUE! Kurt Angle will be hotter than The Rock in six months!

By Bryan Ethier

IT WAS ABOUT three years ago when Sunny of Bodydonnas fame sat ringside and ogled over the statue that posed smiling in the ring.

"Oh, he's yummy," Sunny cooed. "I like his smile. He's got some stuff."

The guy with the "stuff" was a young newcomer named Rocky Maivia. The son of the great Rocky Johnson, Maivia came into the WWF a relative unknown who displayed great promise, a great physique, and a big splash of bravado.

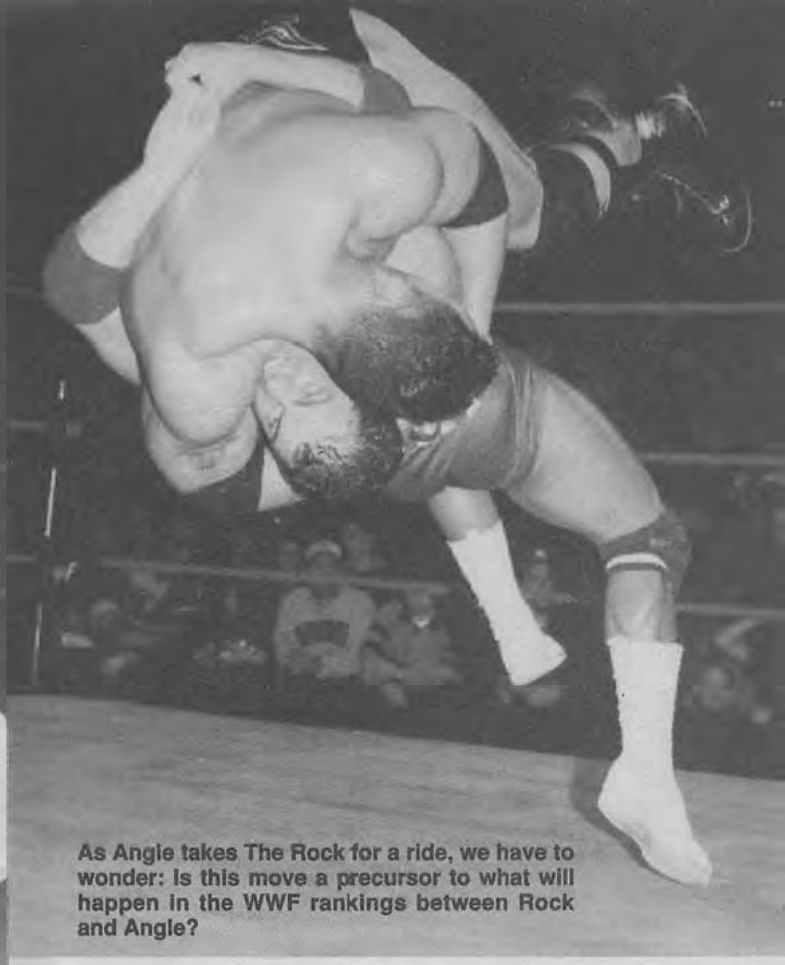
But it was his smile that captured the hearts of Sunny and the fans.

"This guy is going places," said Sunny, and she was right, although Sunny would leave the WWF well before Maivia became The Rock and, ultimately, the most electrifying man in the sports entertainment industry.

Fast-forward to a few months back, to Stephanie McMahon's office. Her doe-like eyes are widening Sunny-like over a guy by the name of Kurt Angle, a former amateur wrestler and gold medalist at the 1996 Olympics.

"I like this Kurt Angle; he's got pizzazz. I think we should help him along," she said to her chief hench-

Angle is tough enough to battle and beat rugged stars like Tazz ... and charismatic enough to establish himself as a star the caliber of The Rock faster than you might expect.



As Angle takes The Rock for a ride, we have to wonder: Is this move a precursor to what will happen in the WWF rankings between Rock and Angle?

man/husband, Triple-H.

Some six months after he wrestled in his first televised WWF match, Kurt Angle has received the support of his boss, and he hasn't failed her. At press time, Angle owned both the European and Intercontinental titles. Like The Rock, Angle has brought to the WWF an air of freshness and cockiness he can back up, a cerebral, thoughtful approach to the game, and a robust sense of humor that borders on arrogance. (Actually, it does more than *border* on arrogance.)

And, oh yes, success.

Angle has also managed to alienate many wrestlers with his haughtiness. He berated former Olympic weightlifter Mark Henry for impregnating Mae Young when they were not married, then suplexed Mae when she tried to interfere. In virtually every town Angle visits, he quickly identifies the "bad apples, hooligans, and punks," and counsels them to straighten up so they can become a little more like him, their Olympic hero. He has waged battle with Chris Jericho (he virtually stole the I-C belt from Y2J at No Way Out), whom he considers another overrated loudmouth.

After winning the European title, Angle bragged that the European economy was up, suicide rate down, and tourism was up 16.4 percent. Then he added that he wanted to do for the United States what he has done for Europe—namely clean it up. How? By being himself, a man of "integrity, intensity, and intelligence"?

He is also a player who befriended Big Show, calling him a man of similar integrity.

Put all this together and Kurt Angle comes off ... well, somewhat enigmatically. Just ask Jim Ross.

"Sometimes Angle makes me sick," he said.

Like the time Angle smacked Chyna in the face with his European belt.

"I had a reliable source who told me she was going to sell the belt so she could get more money for plastic surgery," explained Angle.

Steph likes him, almost everyone else in the WWF hates him, so how should the fans feel?

"He's the most entertaining player in the game right now," said 38-year-old Chris Chorkle after attending a recent card that featured Angle. "He's got all the gifts. He can really wrestle, which is unique these days. He's strong. I guess he's good-looking; I'm just a guy, what do I know? He talks a good game and leaves you wondering if you should cheer him or hate him."

Sound vaguely familiar? Are we talking about a young Rock here?

His transition from Maivia to people's champion included multiple personality changes. Rocky Maivia was a smiling, nice kid. Then he became the people's enemy because he resented their lack of support. And

Angle (going airborne against Kane) says that he's in the WWF to eliminate bad apples, hooligans, and punks. Does that mean The Rock, too? Probably.

Though he often wrestles mid-level competition like The Godfather, Angle might soon be wrestling for—or even *defending!*—the WWF World title.

as Maivia became more and more anti-establishment, the fans embraced him more and more. Is Rock a fan favorite or rulebreaker? It's often hard to tell in a world that favors wrestlers who personify both honorable and dishonorable traits. Ultimately, it doesn't matter if Rock is good guy one night and a bad guy the next, because the fans adore him no matter what he does.

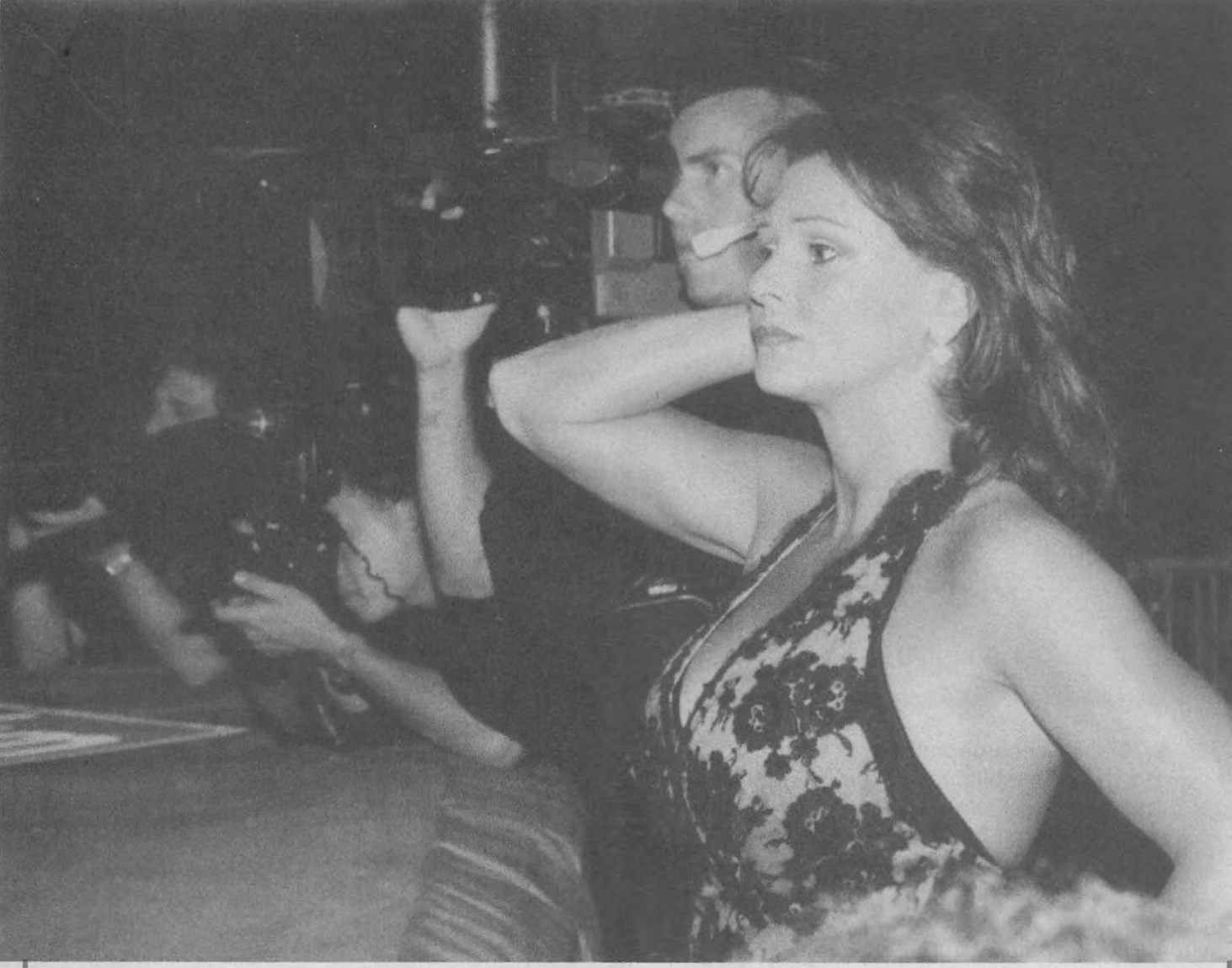
"I sit at the edge of my chair and await every one of his words," said Jerry "The King" Lawler, sprinkling in a few shakes of his usual sarcasm. "The guy can do no wrong in my book, and I foresee him being bigger than *anyone* six months down the road."

Should we take Lawler's prediction seriously? Kurt Angle bigger than The Rock? Why not? Already, Angle's microphone work is among the most engaging in the business. His ability to play with your feelings is a tremendous gift that few possess. Mick Foley was good at playing with the crowd; The Rock is excellent. Kurt Angle already is among the best in the game.

It's not beyond reason to think that Angle will get a World title shot in the near future. Stephanie still wants to promote him, although Triple-H has shown some ambivalence toward the idea. Angle's salesmanship has helped him secure major matches; he won the European belt just a few months into his WWF stint, and now wears the I-C belt as well. Kurt Angle has a chance to leapfrog the rest of the federation's talent.

It's not unreasonable to think Angle will develop into a long-standing Intercontinental or World champion. In the ring, he matches savvy with power ... and a dose of chicanery. Plus, he's experienced. Unlike Henry, another former Olympian, Angle is a well-rounded athlete who can execute a wide range of finishers. When it's time to put an opponent's shoulders to the mat, Angle is outstanding.

Before long, Angle may be angling for The Rock's position in the hearts of the fans. Can The Rock smell what Kurt is cookin'? □



ALL OF LIZ' MEN

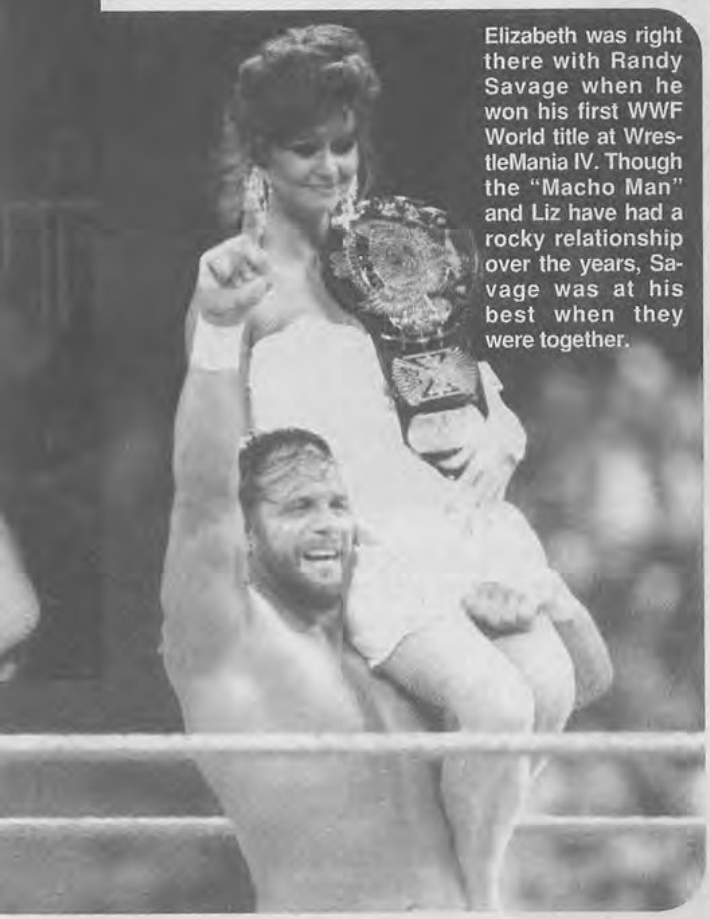
How She Changed The Careers Of Wrestling's Biggest Names

Randy Savage. Hulk Hogan. Ric Flair. Lex Luger. Liz has managed some of the all-time greats, and she's had a profound effect on some others. In this exclusive feature, we examine just how powerful and influential the lovely Liz has been

By Dan Murphy

IN HER 15 years in the sport, Elizabeth has guided the careers of four world champions (five if you count her brief association with Dusty Rhodes in the WWF), yet she has never been voted Manager of the Year by the readers of ***Pro Wrestling Illustrated*** *(she was first runner-up in 1988). She has been one of wrestling's most popular personalities despite the fact that she has only rarely granted in-depth interviews.*

So what's Liz' secret? She's not loud, obnoxious, or particularly aggressive. How has one of the most visible managers of all-time been so successful—and remained largely underappreciated by the wrestling public? INSIDE WRESTLING takes this special look at how Liz has directly affected the careers of some of wrestling's biggest names.



Elizabeth was right there with Randy Savage when he won his first WWF World title at WrestleMania IV. Though the "Macho Man" and Liz have had a rocky relationship over the years, Savage was at his best when they were together.

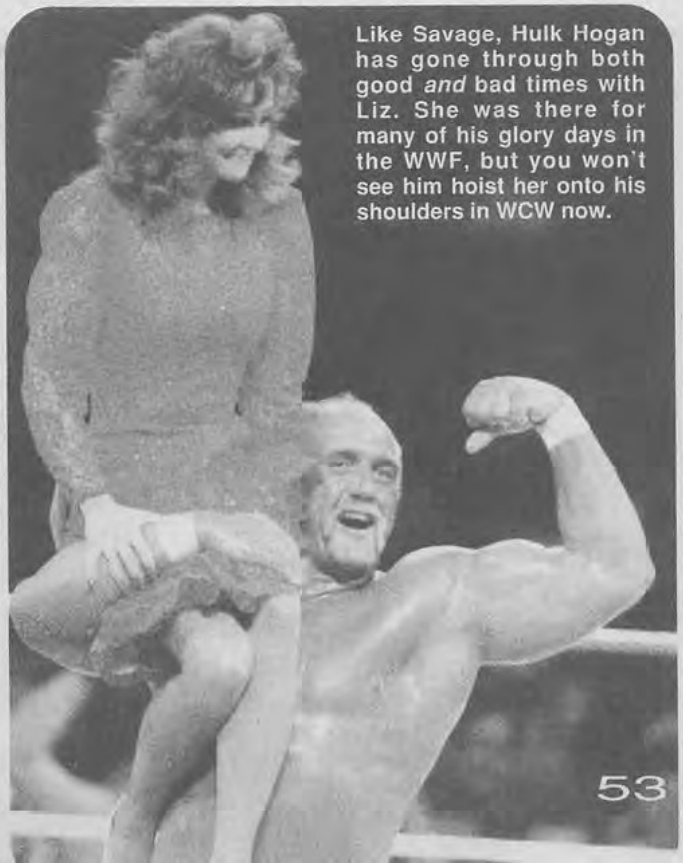
The Partner: "Macho Man" Randy Savage
The Timeline: 1985-1989; 1991-1992; 1996
History: Savage's arrival in the WWF touched off a bidding war between the federation's top managers. In the end, the "Macho Man" surprised everyone by selecting the unproven Miss Elizabeth. Savage jealously guarded Elizabeth and prevented her from speaking for herself whenever he could. Despite projecting the image that she was the innocent beauty behind the beast, Elizabeth made a name for herself with a lot of behind-the-scenes wrangling and skillful negotiating.

Savage won the Intercontinental title and later watched as his popularity began to rival that of Hulk Hogan. At WrestleMania IV, Savage won his first WWF World title. Savage and Elizabeth split in 1989, but they reunited in 1991 and were married at that year's SummerSlam. Eight months later, Savage won his second WWF World title. They were divorced a few years later, but Elizabeth did appear in her ex-husband's corner for a while in 1996 before betraying him and joining Ric Flair's camp.

How Elizabeth Changed His Career: Savage was never more dominant than he was when he had Liz in his corner. Perhaps he felt the need to prove himself to her. He went on to win four WCW World titles without her, but never regained the drive he had under Liz' tutelage. Elizabeth always kept Savage on an even keel. Without her, he slid into some silly feuds and at times struggled to stay in title contention. If not for Elizabeth, Savage might never have broken into the upper echelon of the WWF and instead fallen victim to his own anger.

* * *

The Partner: Hulk Hogan
The Timeline: 1988-89; 1996-99 (on and off)
History: Elizabeth was responsible for bringing The Megapowers together. Hogan later infuriated



Like Savage, Hulk Hogan has gone through both good *and* bad times with Liz. She was there for many of his glory days in the WWF, but you won't see him hoist her onto his shoulders in WCW now.

Poor George Steele. He wanted so badly to have Elizabeth by his side, but he never really got her. Thanks to Liz, though, we got to see a more human side of "The Animal."

Savage when he admitted he loved Elizabeth—like a sister. Liz continued to stand by Hogan during his feud with Savage. Years later, Liz joined the NWO and helped Hogan taunt Savage and other WCW fan favorites.

How Elizabeth Changed His Career: On the surface, it might have seemed like Hogan simply used Liz to get a mental edge in his war with Savage. In reality, Elizabeth lured Hogan into her camp. During their association, Hogan began to focus more on the attention Liz gave him than on the fans. The result was the emergence of a more aggressive, borderline rulebreaking Hogan in 1989. Throughout the NWO era, Liz helped Hogan put the fans' interests out of his mind and, mostly behind the scenes, molded him into an increasingly brutal rulebreaker—just as she had done with Savage.

* * *

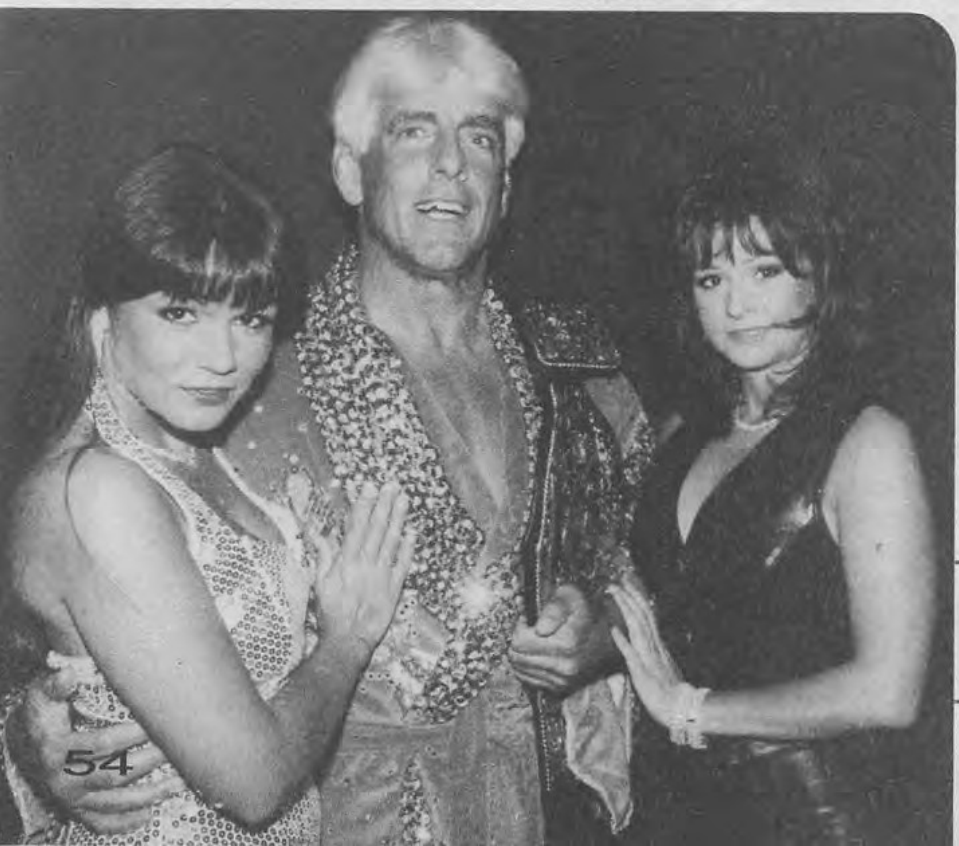
The Partner: George "The Animal" Steele
The Timeline: 1986-1987
History: It wasn't really a partnership; "The Animal" simply fell in love with Liz. Steele spent more time trying to win Liz' favor than battling Savage. As a result, Steele lost his greatest strength (his brutality), and Savage dominated one of wrestling's greatest brawlers.

How Elizabeth Changed His Career: Say what you want about Capt. Lou Albano's intercession—it was actually Steele's love for Liz that made him a fan favorite. Today George Steele is a WWF Hall of Famer and one of the most popular grapplers on the indy scene. If not for Liz, Steele would have gone into the record books as one of wrestling's most hated brawlers. She tamed "The Animal."

* * *

The Partner: Ric Flair
The Timeline: 1995-1996; 2000-present
History: In 1992, Flair became so obsessed with Liz that he infuriated the "Macho Man" when he doctored photos to make it look as if they were an item in the WWF. Finally, in 1996, Flair successfully recruited Liz, and she helped him win the WCW World heavyweight title from Savage.

How Elizabeth Changed His Career: At WrestleMania VIII, Flair lost the WWF title because he was more concerned with getting a smooch from Liz than getting a three-count on the "Macho Man." When Liz finally signed with Flair, she led him back to the top of WCW. Instead of being overlooked in favor of WCW new-



By 1996, the bad girl in Liz started to come out, as Ric Flair enticed her to join his camp and, along with Woman, become part of The Four Horsemen's entourage.

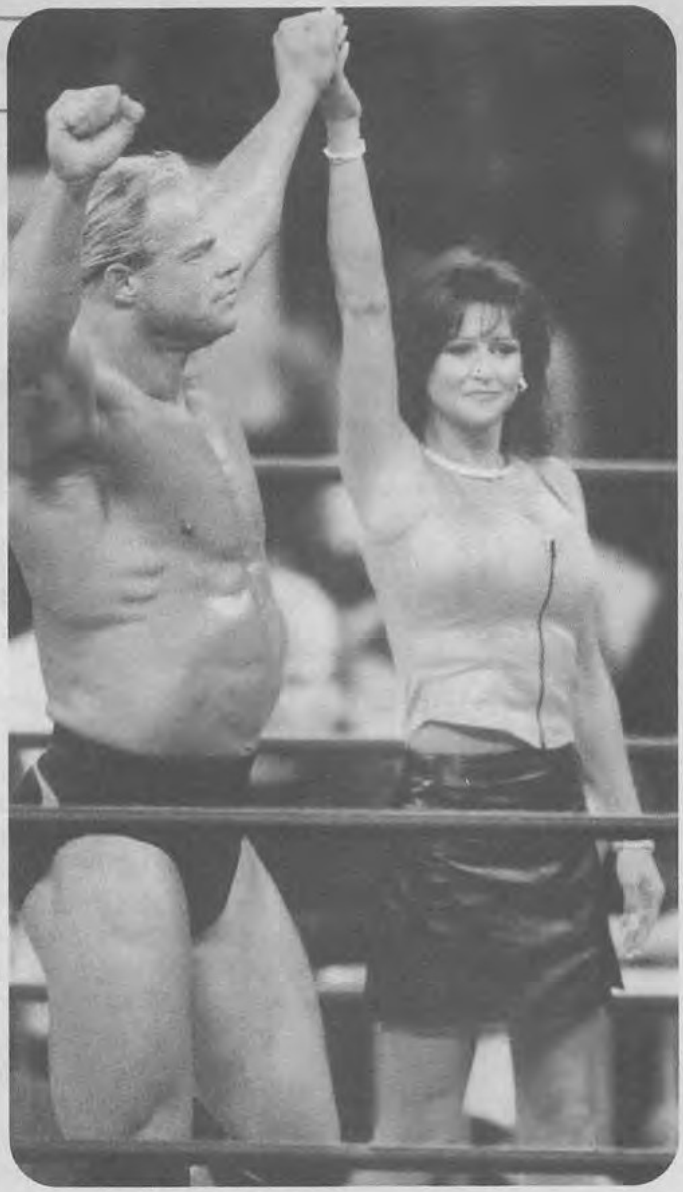
Looking as gorgeous as ever, the diabolical Liz is now one-third of Team Package. Her number-one priority is guiding Lex Luger to another WCW World title triumph.

comers Savage and Hogan and perennial fan favorites such as Sting, Flair made another rush to the title. His success led to the reformation of The Four Horsemen and gave the "Nature Boy's" career a much-needed boost. Liz and Flair are currently members of Team Package in WCW.

* * *

The Partner: Eric Bischoff
The Timeline: 1997-1999
History: Elizabeth wasted no time in aligning herself with the head of WCW and the NWO. With Bischoff, Liz dropped her good girl image and began wearing a lot of black leather outfits. Bischoff presented Liz as a trophy and subjected her to those hideous pseudo-*Tonight Show* skits.

How Elizabeth Changed His Career: Bischoff fed off Liz' attention in much the same way Flair did. However, Liz was never able to keep Bischoff's ego in check, and she seemed out of place and uncomfortable with him. In the end, "Easy E" injected himself into the action, teaming with Hogan against Jay Leno and Dallas Page at Road Wild '98. Bischoff overreached his grasp and was ousted as WCW president in September 1999.



The Partner: Lex Luger
The Timeline: 1999-present
History: Luger signed with Liz as the second incarnation of the NWO was entering its final days. Cockier than ever, Luger began referring to himself only as The Total Package. Luger says the pairing is natural because he and Liz are clearly the most attractive people in WCW.

How Elizabeth Changed His Career: Like she did with the others, Liz turned up Luger's arrogance and pointed him back in the direction of main events. Luger is now feuding with Hogan and Sting and is primed for another run at the World title—whereas his old compatriots in the Wolfpac (Sting, Kevin Nash, and Konnan) are missing in action. It's only a matter of time before Liz applies the same formula and gets the same result—another championship on her resume. □

The Liz-Eric Bischoff partnership never really seemed like a comfortable one. She stood by "Easy E" for months, but do you really think she enjoyed those awful *Tonight Show* parodies he used to do?

HOTSEAT

STEVE BLACKMAN

"I HAVE A PERSONALITY ... REALLY!"

SOME ATHLETES CAN condense the sums of their professional careers into phrases or nicknames. For all his scoring records and accolades, Wayne Gretzky is simply "The Great One." Joe Namath, with his flash, panache, and rugged good looks, is forever "Broadway Joe." "Air" Jordan made everyone want to be like Mike. Those are the lucky ones.

For all his skill, Roberto Duran will forever be linked to his "no mas" loss to Sugar Ray Leonard. After he missed a last-second game-winning field goal in Super Bowl XXV, Buffalo Bills kicker Scott Norwood might as well have tattooed the words "wide right" on his forehead. And can any NHL fan hear the name Don Koharski without snickering over Jim Schoenfeld's infamous "doughnut" crack?

It's safe to say that while Steve Blackman was busy mastering the martial arts, he never thought he'd come to be associated with a loaf of jellied, seasoned meat made from the heads and feet of pigs. But as much as "The Lethal Weapon" hates being part of a team called Head Cheese, he has to admit his partnership with Al Snow has paid off. Blackman may be getting taunted by the fans (or laughed at when he reluctantly tries a moonwalk at Snow's behest), but he and Snow have steadily climbed the ladder and become legitimate contenders to the WWF tag team title.

Yes, Blackman hates Snow's reliance on gimmickry, but after two years on the WWF treadmill, he has come to understand the need to distinguish himself—even if it means putting up with Snow's "cheesy" ideas.

INSIDE WRESTLING Senior Writer Dan Murphy met with Blackman at his dojo in Annville, Pennsylvania, to discuss his perceived lack of charisma and his new popularity as a member of Head Cheese.

"I'm not concerned with catch-phrases, T-shirt sales, and all that other stuff that gets people over. My job is to win matches and get title shots."

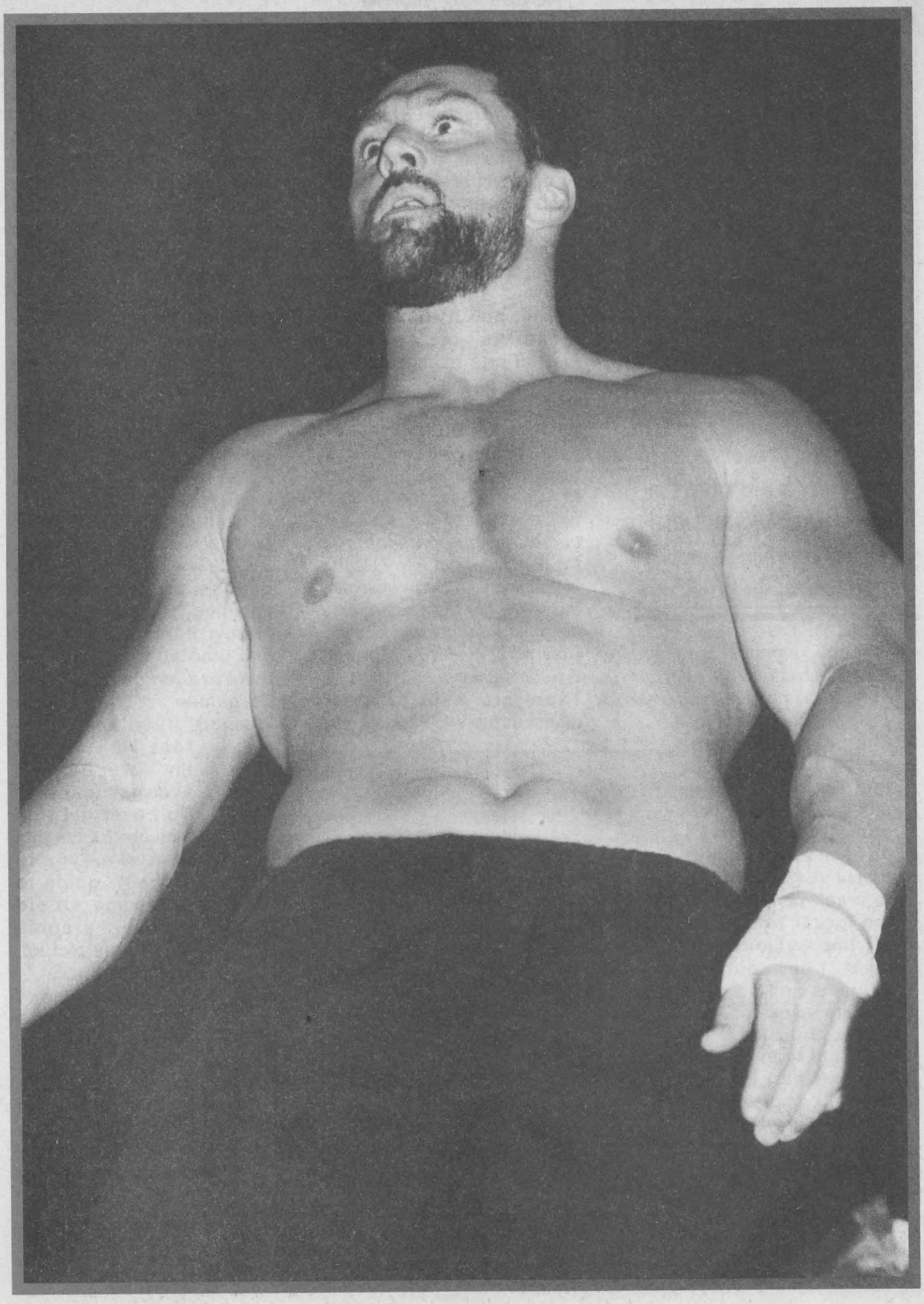
Q: *Thanks for meeting me, Steve. You seem to be a popular man in the WWF these days. I guess you have to give credit to Al Snow for helping you break out.*

A: I don't have to give Al credit for anything other than being a good partner. Look, I'm a wrestler, and I'm a damn good one. I'm not concerned with catch-phrases, T-shirt sales, and all that other stuff that gets people over. My job is to win matches and get title shots. I've been winning my matches for a while now, but no one was putting me in title matches.

Q: *Until you and Al became Head Cheese.*

A: Until Al and I started winning, Murphy. We're a damn fine team, in case you hadn't noticed. We're the most technically sound team in the WWF. We made a name for ourselves by winning matches.

Q: *Come on. You have to admit the block of cheese and cheese hat helped. Up to that point, you were stuck in opening matches, if you were on the card at all. A few weeks ago on* ***Raw****, it looked like you were on the verge of beating The New Age Outlaws for the World tag team title before The Radicals got involved. You've come a long way since Al came up with the Head*



"I'm sick and tired of trying to prove that I'm a fun guy. I'm Steve Blackman, 'The Lethal Weapon.' I ran Ken Shamrock right out of the WWF."

Cheese gimmick, and you haven't really altered your style. It seems to me you have the gimmick to thank for it.

A: The biggest misconception out there is that I'm some bland, dull guy. I have a personality ... really! I have a sense of humor. I've been known to crack people up in the locker room with my impressions and jokes. I have outside interests and hobbies that are no business of yours. But I leave all that stuff in the locker room. When I wrestle, I'm completely focused. I don't have time to try to be cute or funny.

Q: *Can you do an impression for me?*

A: Listen, I'll do one impression if we can drop the whole Head Cheese thing and talk wrestling, okay?

Q: *You got it.*

A: All right. Let's see. Okay. *(Blackman pauses and clears his throat.)* Sometimes, Marge, you and I are just very different people. *Yum* ... sprinkles!

Q: *Was that supposed to be Homer Simpson?*

A: Of course it was!

Q: *Oh.*

A: Forget about the impressions. Ask me about my martial arts background or title aspirations.

Q: *Well, you and Al seemed to hit your peak in that match against the Outlaws. Since then, you've dropped matches to Too Cool and the Hardys, while Edge and Christian became the top contenders to the title. Now that Perry Saturn is teaming with Dean Malenko, the WWF tag team roster may be at its strongest level ever. How will you and Al deal with the competition?*

A: There are a lot of great teams in the WWF today, but a lot of the teams you mentioned are preoccupied. In my opinion, you have to have a solid game plan and execute it. You have to follow through and give 110 percent. Most of these teams are caught up in other feuds. The ones that aren't, I don't think they have the physical tools to beat the Dudleys. I think Al and I have the endurance and intestinal forti ... hey! Were you just yawning?

Q: *Sorry. I didn't get a lot of sleep last night and ...*

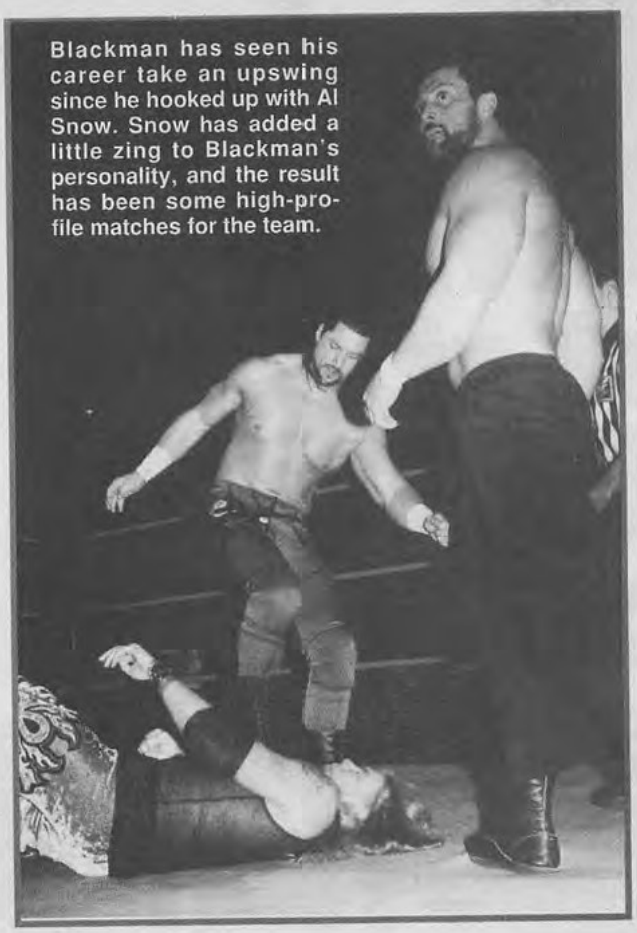
A: Are you trying to say I'm boring? Do you not like the answers I'm giving you?

Q: *Not at all. Steve, it was just a reflex action.*

A: So you're saying it's a reflex to doze off when I speak. You know, you're just as bad as all those idiots chanting "Head Cheese" or "Snow Bunnies." I'm sick and tired of trying to prove that I'm a fun guy. I'm Steve Blackman, "The Lethal Weapon." I ran Ken Shamrock right out of the WWF. But do I ever get respect? Do I ever get title matches? Even this interview—you're probably going to run some stupid cheese graphic next to my picture, aren't you?

Q: *Settle down, Steve. I think you're getting a little paranoid here. Besides, I'm a reporter. I have nothing to do with the art direction or layout of this interview. If they put cheese on your head, that's their business, not mine. Take it up with Stu or Dave or Brandi if it happens.*

Unlike Kurt Angle (on the receiving end of a Steve Blackman snap suplex), Blackman hasn't received many title shots. Many insiders believe his lack of charisma would make him an undesirable champion.



Blackman has seen his career take an upswing since he hooked up with Al Snow. Snow has added a little zing to Blackman's personality, and the result has been some high-profile matches for the team.

shootfighters in the world. But because some Internet losers say I can't cut a promo, I have to be shut out of title contention?

Q: *I'm not saying it's right or wrong. It's just how things are.*

A: That's garbage. Your magazine promotes all this crap, too. You're just as guilty as Triple-H and the rest of them.

Q: *You're ranting here, Blackman. I think* INSIDE WRESTLING *and its sister publications have always promoted sheer wrestling ability over promos and hype, but it's not my place to defend our editorial practices to you or to defend how the WWF distributes title shots. I'm going to ask you one more question, and then I think we can end this interview. You seem to be at a breaking point, but you're more popular than you've ever been. Are the fans going to see a more relaxed Steve Blackman in the ring from now on, or will Head Cheese just throw the rulebook out the window and do whatever needs to be done?*

A: Listen, just shut up and go on with the interview.

Q: *All right, Steve, let's see if we can get this done this time. There's no question that you're one of the top talents in the WWF. In fact, I wouldn't rule you out of contention for any title in the federation, including the World title. But with all the talent in the WWF, you need to bring something else to the table to distinguish yourself. Until now, you haven't.*

A: Maybe I'll just start asking the fans what I'm cooking, yell obscenities, or walk out with a half-naked female, because it sure does seem like that kind of stuff gets you title shots. You know, though, that's not me, and that's not what I want to do. I'm a world-class athlete. I'd say I'm one of the top

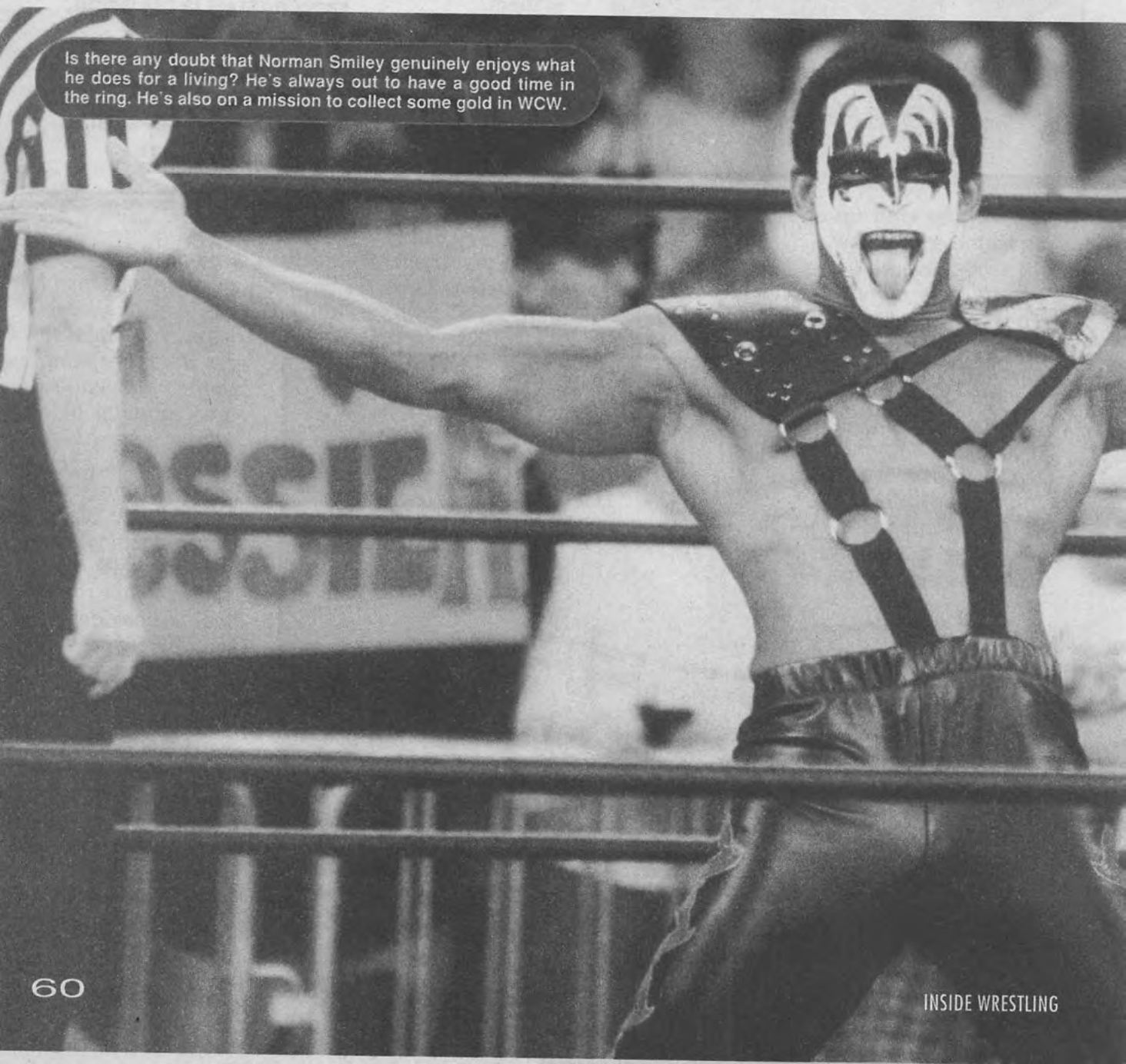
"I'd say I'm one of the top shootfighters in the world. But because some Internet losers say I can't cut a promo, I have to be shut out of title contention?"

There's no doubt that with his large array of martial arts maneuvers (such as this front heel kick he's using on Edge), Blackman is a formidable opponent for any wrestler in the WWF.

A: I'm going to do what it takes to get respect on my own terms, and that means with or without Al Snow. I'll always be "The Lethal Weapon." Remember that. □

Wigglin' and Screamin'... but still Title Dreamin'

THERE'S A SERIOUS SIDE TO NORMAN SMILEY



Is there any doubt that Norman Smiley genuinely enjoys what he does for a living? He's always out to have a good time in the ring. He's also on a mission to collect some gold in WCW.

Did Norman Smiley trade his championship ambitions for a cute dance number and a goofy hardcore persona? Not quite. Wigglin' and screamin' is all part of his peculiar master plan!

By Harry Burkett

NORMAN SMILEY CHEWED intently as he listened to the question. He held up one finger, as if requesting a pause before he swallowed his food. He lifted a glass of water to his lips (with his pinky finger extended) prior to delivering his response.

"My mother always told me to chew each piece of my meat 20 times before swallowing," Smiley explained. "It helps the digestive system. I think it is why my abdominal muscles remain in tip-top condition. Oh, to answer your question: I do not think my wrestling suffers because of my dancing."

Smiley dabbed the corners of his mouth with a napkin. He delicately pierced his medium-rare steak with his fork and sliced it with his knife. "Excuse me," said Smiley, "but, *monsieur,* may I have more of the tomato flavoring for my potatoes?"

A burly hand slammed a bottle down on the table. "Hey, Mac, you mean ketchup for your fries?" rasped a fry cook with grease stains on his T-shirt.

"That is correct, sir," Smiley replied as he stuck his knife in the bottle and spread the ketchup evenly on each fry. "Don't you love these quaint American restaurants?" asked Smiley, grinning in satisfaction.

"Anyway, I believe I am striking the perfect balance," continued Smiley. "The wrestling public is aware I am an internationally renowned competitor. That was well-publicized upon my entry into WCW. No one questions my ability."

True, everyone who is familiar with Smiley's background is impressed by his credentials. The 14-year veteran broke into the sport in his native Great Britain, honed his skills throughout Europe, and achieved his greatest success in Mexico as Black Magic. In addition to capturing Mexico's CMLL heavyweight championship, Smiley also held the Independent Pro Wrestling Association tag team and Global Wrestling TV titles.

Although Smiley failed to achieve a major breakthrough, the vast diversity of his experience makes him an unusual competitor in WCW. No one has wrestled in so many matches abroad and fully adapted to each region. Smiley was trained in the mat submission style while in Europe, then integrated that with the Lucha Libre style of Mexico.

Since arriving in WCW, Smiley has relished the opportunity to excel in the American style. Donning football helmets and pads in preparation for hardcore matches is as American as a wrestler can get. Smiley's tendency to scream when he gets in

Whether he's doing the big wiggle while dressed as a Philadelphia Flyers hockey player (left) or donning the face paint of the rock band Kiss (above), Norman Smiley is *always* entertaining. He's a superb wrestler, too.

trouble has actually become a highlight of his hardcore matches. More important than his screaming, showmanship is now a vital part of his repertoire.

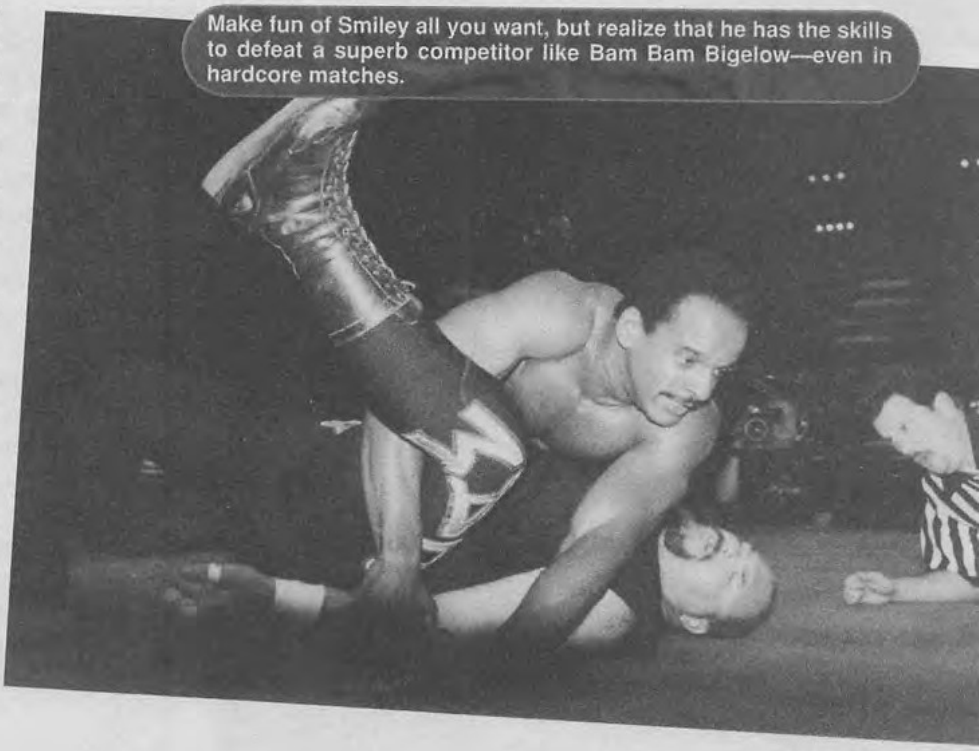
"His dancing is obnoxious, but Norman Smiley might be the most underrated wrestler in this company," said commentator Mark Madden. "In his mind at least, he knows how to defeat anyone in WCW. Unfortunately, he doesn't have a Buff Bagwell body to match his Lou Thesz mind. Given time, though, he might surprise a lot of people."

Dustin Rhodes, despite having a few run-ins with Smiley, has respect for his skills. "That dancing and all that jive has to go. Deep down in his gut, Smiley is still a wimp, and that's why he can't get ahead," Rhodes said. "He has the technical knowledge. A little bit of backbone could take him right to the top."

Smiley brushes off criticism of his dancing. "Back in Europe or Mexico or Japan, the wrestling *is* the entertainment," reflected Smiley. "Here, because wrestling appeals to such a broad mainstream audience, there's a need to keep the interest of the casual viewer. That is why I started dancing, and it wasn't long before I realized something else: I have never had so much fun in my life!"

But is Smiley truly aware of that fine line between serious competitor and comic relief? Does he know how to straddle the fence between Bill Goldberg and Disco Inferno? Or is the entertainment itself enough of a reward?

"I am a fiery competitor," insisted Smiley. "Please do not make a mistake about that. The wiggling



Make fun of Smiley all you want, but realize that he has the skills to defeat a superb competitor like Bam Bam Bigelow—even in hardcore matches.

and dancing is simply part of the entire package I offer, and it allows me to display my lighter side. I am a very fun and boisterous fellow. Just because I do some wiggling today does not mean I will not be WCW World champion tomorrow. I study videotapes of future opponents nearly every night because that is my ultimate goal. And besides, I can still wiggle with that big gold belt around my waist."

Smiley often dresses in football gear for his hardcore matches. How American can he get?! You have to admit that Smiley can be a real joy to watch sometimes.

As Smiley enjoyed his last fry, someone dropped a few coins in the jukebox. The patron must have been a retro-'80s enthusiast. "Electric Avenue," an early-1980s hit by Eddy Grant, boomed throughout the establishment. Smiley's eyes became wide with glee. "'Electric Avenue' was my favorite tune as a young man. I can really boogie with that!"

Smiley jumped out of his chair and started snapping his fingers. Before long, he was swaying his hips from side to side. Then, as the burly cook watched, Smiley hit the big wiggle. He galloped between tables until the cook grabbed Smiley's elbow.

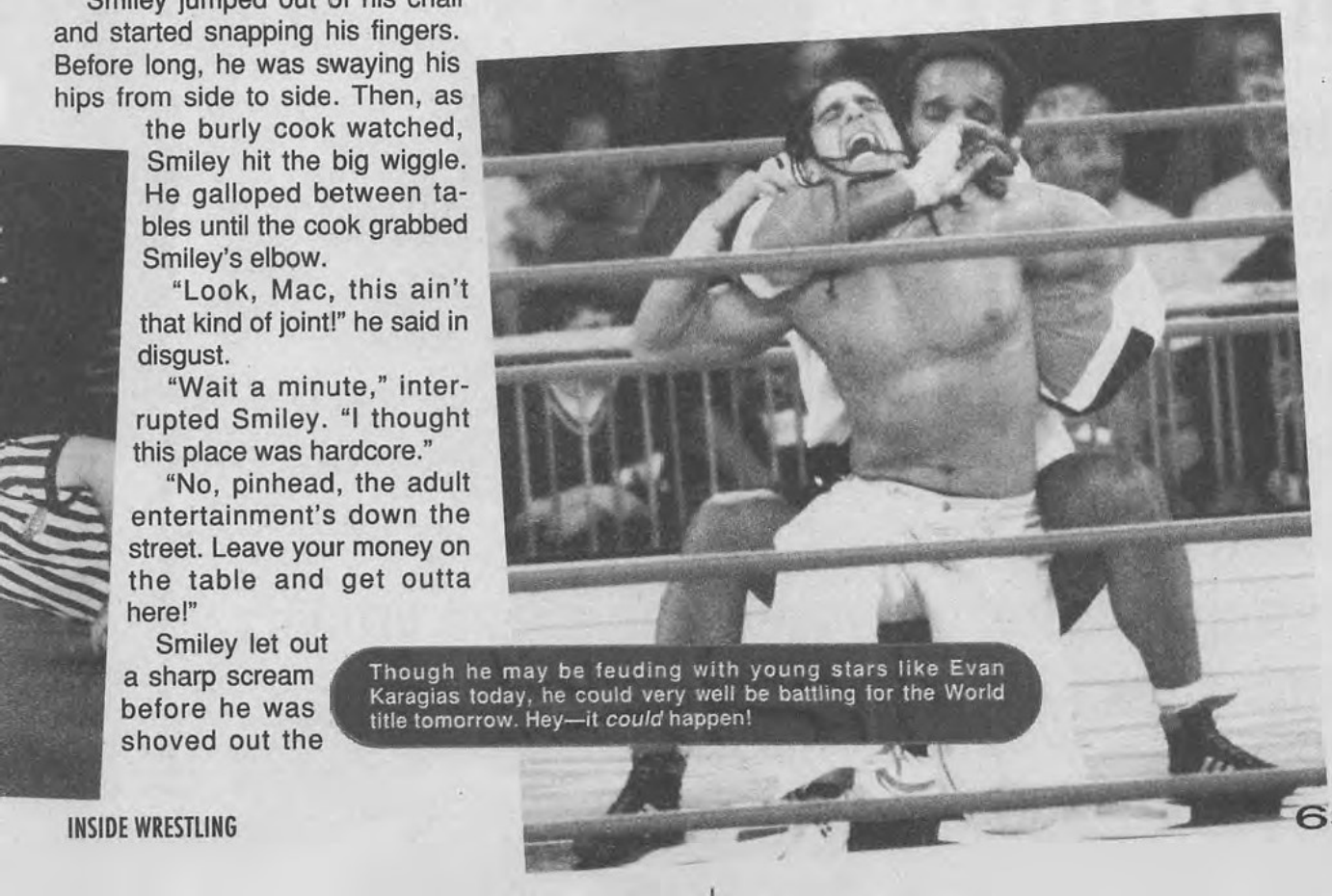
"Look, Mac, this ain't that kind of joint!" he said in disgust.

"Wait a minute," interrupted Smiley. "I thought this place was hardcore."

"No, pinhead, the adult entertainment's down the street. Leave your money on the table and get outta here!"

Smiley let out a sharp scream before he was shoved out the door. "Does that behemoth realize he is manhandling the next WCW World champion?" Smiley asked incredulously.

At least he dares to dream. Wigglin' and screamin' to the World title might be a first, but it could happen. □



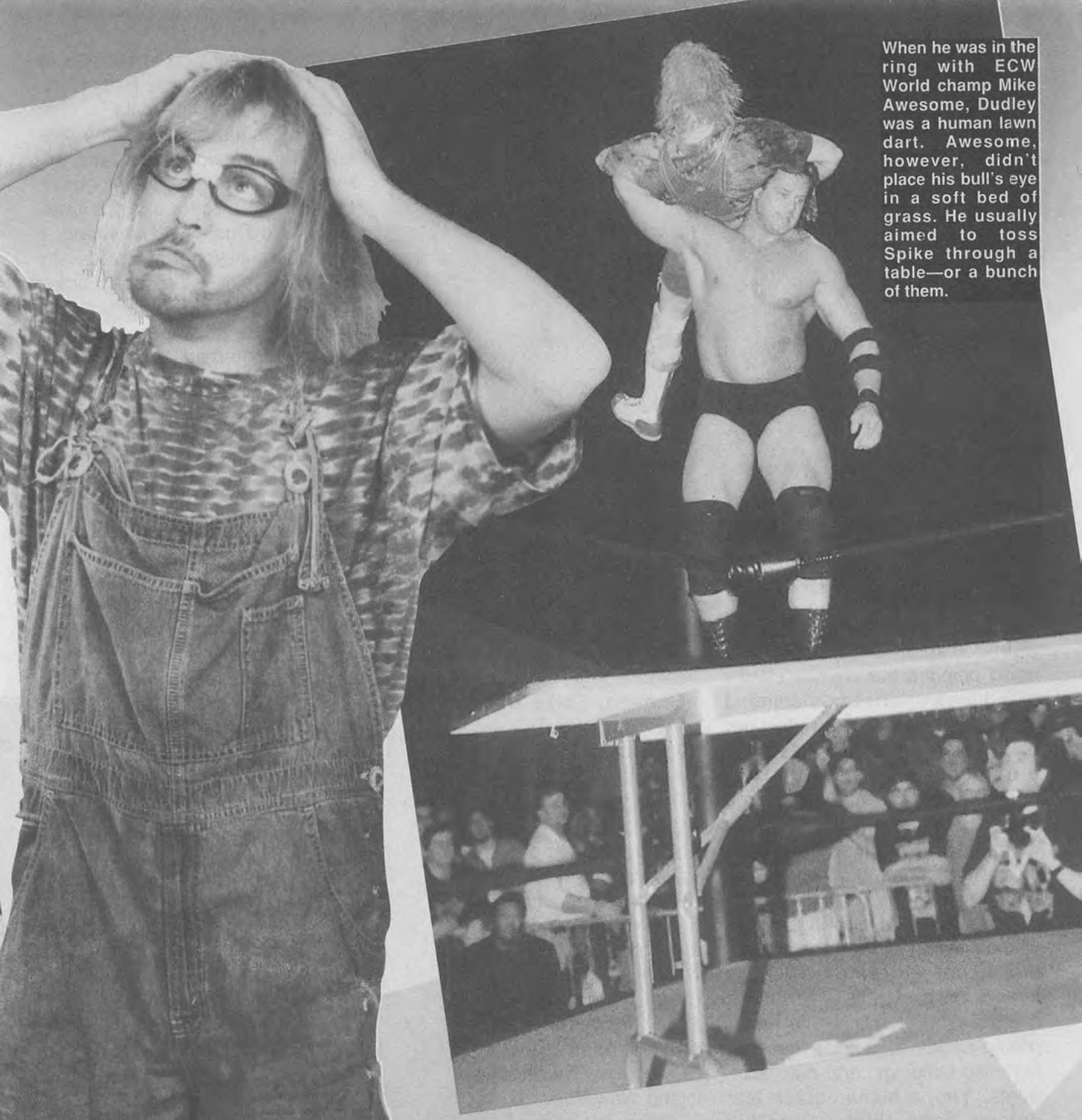
Though he may be feuding with young stars like Evan Karagias today, he could very well be battling for the World title tomorrow. Hey—it *could* happen!

THE UNBREAKABLE SPIKE DUDLEY

HOW THE HELL IS THIS 150-POUNDER STILL ALIVE?

If Spike Dudley only had to take on smaller wrestlers like Little Guido, perhaps the beatings he takes wouldn't be so severe. Dudley, though, usually finds himself in matches with guys two or three times his size.

Unlike most wrestlers' highlight reels, Spike Dudley's greatest hits would depict poor Spike being power-bombed through tables or tossed into arena crowds. How does he survive the punishment?



When he was in the ring with ECW World champ Mike Awesome, Dudley was a human lawn dart. Awesome, however, didn't place his bull's eye in a soft bed of grass. He usually aimed to toss Spike through a table—or a bunch of them.

By Harry Burkett

THE MEDICAL profession has yet to do a definitive study of the effects the daily rigors of pro wrestling have on the human body. If such a research project takes place, scientists might want to divide the study subjects into three groups.

Group A would consist of wrestlers who incorporate basic wrestling moves into their repertoires: dropkicks, powerslams, and the occasional piledriver. Group B would consist of hardcore warriors who punch and kick inside the ring and bash each other with chairs and other weaponry outside it.

Group C would be Spike Dudley.

And what an interesting subject Dudley would be. Scientists could analyze the flexibility required to

There is no one in ECW who has endured more physical punishment than Dudley. A favorite of EMTs everywhere, Dudley is often unable to leave ringside under his own power. Now he's looking at a half-year of rehab on his knee.

execute a huracanrana on 601-pound Sal E. Graziano. They could pinpoint the precise effects of a human vertebra slamming into a table leg at 25 miles per hour. The researchers could study the traumatic effects of a 150-pound man being hurtled through the air, flying out of the ring, smashing through a table, and splattering upon the concrete floor underneath.

The study of Spike Dudley would not only display the punishment that extreme wrestlers absorb on a nightly basis, but it could provide insights into hang-gliding accidents, suicide leaps off high-rise buildings, and auto accidents. Yes, a human crash test dummy does exist ... and his friends call him "little Spike."

But even after all the scientists were done with their poking and prodding, there would still be one question left for them to ponder: How does Spike Dudley stay alive?

"Aw, shucks, I just do the best I can," said mild-mannered Spike. "Every day I'm in ECW, I'm just glad that a 150-pounder is being given this opportunity to earn a living and entertain the fans. Many promotions wouldn't have looked twice at me before turning me down."

Indeed, Spike Dudley found only marginal success before his days in ECW. He logged thousands of miles in his Toyota while traveling the independent circuit and had problems finding a promotion in which to settle. Finally, in the fall of 1996, he was invited to appear at an ECW card on Long Island, New York.

Even his debut was a painful experience. "Big" Dick Dudley carried Spike to the ring in a body-bag. Spike's compassionate half-brother, Buh Buh Ray, threw Spike out of the ring and onto "Big" Dick, D-Von Dudley, and Axl Rotten. It was at that moment Little Spike recognized what would become his reality: His success in ECW would be directly proportional to his ability to take pain.

"ECW is the most extreme federation in the world, and fans will resent me if the guys take it easier on me just because I'm a little guy," said Dudley. "If anything, I have to go beyond the others—in terms of the risks I take—in order to make an impact."

That's the cruel irony of it all. Dudley, a gifted athlete in terms of speed and agility, must be willing to engage in chair-bashing, table-splintering spectacles. The man least equipped to take the punishment must be willing to take more punishment than anyone. And he *has* taken more punishment than anyone.

"Since wrestlers like Spike and I are in such great physical condition and have very little body fat, we don't have the insulation to cushion spills on the con-

Dudley (bulldogging Mikey Whipwreck) is actually a very accomplished mat wrestler. ECW fans don't care to see that side of the giant killer, though. They would prefer to watch him battle with tables, chairs, and other weapons.

crete or power bombs through tables," said Little Guido, one of Dudley's rivals. "Maybe that's why someone like Mick Foley can wrestle continuously for years, but more muscular guys are always out with injuries. After a particularly violent match, my joints and ligaments ache terribly."

Spike has suffered from the same problems. But as long as he could walk out of the arena under his own power, he was happy. He'd be there for the next show. No minor injury could keep him down. In fact, he even bragged during one recent promo that he had *never* missed an ECW match due to injury.

That all changed when his knee began giving him more than a little trouble. Tests revealed he had torn a ligament and would have to sit out six to nine months. Such a major injury like that was inevitable. Everyone in ECW, including Spike, had to know that.

"I knew I was going to get banged around when I started going against Mike Awesome," Spike said, "but I've always been willing to pay the price. I know what kinds of risks I'm taking, and I'll deal with the consequences."

At first, Dudley was thrilled simply to be in the ring against the champion. During one of their first encounters, however, a successful high-flying assault placed the World title within Spike's grasp. For the first time, Dudley felt the burning desire to be champion. Awesome must have seen it in Dudley's eyes. That's when Awesome turned up the violence. He put Spike through one table after another until the young man was helpless.

Then came the incident with Spike's girlfriend. She came to Spike's aid when he was being brutalized by Awesome. The ECW champ responded by knocking a few of the woman's teeth out. In his quest for revenge, he blew out his knee.

There's no doubt the determination to come back stronger than ever is there. But can his body hold up? Will he be able to use the same reckless style as before? Won't he have to be a *little* more cautious?

When Spike debuted in ECW in 1996, he wasn't greeted kindly by his legion of half-brothers. Perhaps feeling Spike was an internal threat to their close-knit, albeit violent brotherhood, the Dudley clan made an example out of him.

"I've had my differences with Spike Dudley, but I know him better than most," said Mahoney, Dudley's former tag team partner. "Spike realizes he has only a certain number of years in that ring. Instead of a slow-burning candle that remains lit for a long time, Spike would rather go in like a firecracker and make an explosion. I don't feel sorry for Spike Dudley. He's doing exactly what he wants to do with his life. You'll see the exact same Spike that you're used to seeing when he's ready to get back in the ring."

Spike represents a new breed of wrestler. He doesn't view wrestling as a career. He views it as a small window of opportunity to live his dream. If Dudley isn't in a wheelchair in 10 years, he'll most likely have a job far removed from wrestling.

"I'd rather be a fantastic wrestler for only a few years than be an average wrestler for many years," said Spike. "Although I'd like my opponents to think I'm unbreakable, I'm really not. That's pretty obvious to everyone now."

No, Spike is not really a physical wonder. His bones break, his ligaments tear, and his body bleeds like anyone else's. It's his spirit that is unbreakable—and that will remain with him long after he's through with wrestling. □

The telephone wires sizzle each month, as two top wrestlers voice their rage and hostility toward each other. Here's the unedited transcript of their conversation, your chance to feel the raw emotion that results when two antagonists face off ... One On One

ONE O

"As far as I'm concerned, this is a load of crap. You've just been paranoid lately because Kane is out to get you. But we're letting things get out of hand. Let's forget about the personal comments for now."
—Triple-H

THERE'S NO TWO ways about it. When X-Pac returned to the WWF the night after WrestleMania XIV, he saved DeGeneration X.

With Shawn Michaels' World title loss to Steve Austin, HBK was gone from the WWF. This left Triple-H in charge of a rather unimposing DX, one consisting of only him and Chyna. Unbeknownst to the world at large, though, Triple-H had already begun forming a new and improved DX. His first recruit (and his most important) was X-Pac, and Triple-H brought him out that night to quell rumors that DX was dead. It was a maneuver born from genius, and along with the additions of Jesse James and Billy Gunn, DX quickly became one of the most dominant cliques in wrestling history. The group has had its problems, however.

Most of the turbulence within DX has stemmed from arguments between the two best friends, Helmsley and X-Pac. They are the glue that keeps DX together. They are also the wedge that drives it apart. Together, without anyone else, they could keep DX alive. Apart, DX dies a quick death. It's already happened once before—one year after they united, at WrestleMania XV.

That night, Triple-H turned his back on DX in search of a more promising future as the right-hand man to Vince McMahon. And what better way to turn rulebreaker than by screwing X-Pac in his European title match with Shane McMahon? Not long after, without the friendship of X-Pac and Triple-H to keep the group united, DX broke up. It might be happening again.

In his current capacity as chief matchmaker for the federation, Triple-H claims he has given his group plum assignments and matches. X-Pac doesn't see things that way. He sees Triple-H as a man with his own agenda. He sees the Triple-H of the spring of 1998 who turned against DX the first time.

With their friendship coming into question on a weekly basis, we asked X-Pac and Triple-H to discuss their problems here ... "One On One."

X-PAC: Hey, Hunter, are you ready to talk?

TRIPLE-H: Yeah, I am. We've needed to talk for a while.

XP: You're right. We haven't been seeing eye-to-eye.

HHH: Yeah, 'Pac, and I'm not sure why. I mean, we're the best of friends outside the ring, so I don't know why we have problems inside it.

XP: See, I don't know if we have problems, Hunter. I just want us to be straight with one another.

HHH: I know. I know. No problem there, buddy. Hey, ask anything you want, and I'll tell you exactly what I think.

XP: All right, I will. Now, don't get mad at me when I say this, but lately, it seems like I've been seeing a lot of Kane and been in a few matches I wasn't too crazy about. I was just wondering what's up with that.

HHH: I don't have a clue what you're talking about.

XP: Yeah, I think you do, Hunter. See, I feel like you're trying to get at me, maybe pull my chain a little bit by scheduling me in some ridiculous matches.

HHH: That's crazy. Who have you been listening to, Tori?

XP: What's that supposed to mean?

HHH: Well, she's the only one around that's new to the clique. She's the only one I can think of that doesn't really

N ONE

"What's with all this sucking up to the WWF suits? It's almost like you've turned into a younger, blonder Vinnie Mac. Don't you see that Steph is trying to change things, shake things up?"
—X-Pac

know our history, how tight we are.

XP: Leave Tori out of this, man. If any female needs to be discussed here, it's Stephanie.

HHH: All right. What's wrong with Steph?

XP: She screws things up, Hunter, and ever since she wormed her way into DX, you've been spending more time with her and less with us.

HHH: Wouldn't you?

XP: Hey, I've gotta admit: She's a hotty, but I'd make sure that my time was spent doing the right thing. Her time should be your time and not our time. Not DX time.

HHH: What's your point, Sean?

XP: What I mean is, she's a good score, but that doesn't mean she should be the dominant force in DX. It should still be our motives that drive this machine, not hers.

HHH: 'Pac, I don't really hear what you're saying, but if you want to talk about females, why don't we talk about Tori and how your win-loss record has dropped since she came on board.

XP: My win-loss record would be a hell of a lot better if I had a fighting chance, Hunter. You know what, I'm just going to put it to you right now: Are you trying to screw me over?

HHH: My friend, if I was trying to screw you over, it wouldn't take too much effort on my behalf. I could screw you over royally if I wanted to.

XP: Is that what our friendship has come to?

HHH: I don't even have a beef with you.

XP: I don't know, man. You're starting to sound like your imitation of Shawn Michaels when he was running things around here. DX is about the unit, not individualism.

HHH: Sean, this conversation shouldn't even be happening. As far as I'm concerned, this is a load of crap. You've just been paranoid lately because Kane is out to get you. But we're letting things get out of hand. We shouldn't even be talking in public about Steph and Tori. Your problem with me stems from some matches you've been put in. I think you also perceive a lack of commitment on my part to DX, right?

XP: You got it.

HHH: What can I do to change your mind?

XP: You can go back to being the old Triple-H. Stop spending all your time with Stephanie. You've got the corporate thing sewn up, H. DX needs your attention for a while. You're acting a little too grown up for me. What's with all this sucking up to the WWF suits? It's almost like you've turned into a younger, blonder Vinnie Mac. Don't you see that Steph is trying to change things, shake things up?

HHH: I've already told you, what Steph and I do is our own business.

XP: Not if it means Road Dogg and myself lose our careers because of it.

HHH: Nobody's losing a career. I don't see Jesse complaining. I'm not complaining. I'm only hearing your gripes.

XP: I'm not going speak for him. If he has a complaint, he can talk to you. All I know is I feel like I'm getting the shaft from you and Steph in the matchmaking department. Maybe the WWF title is weighing a little heavy on your mind.

HHH: I'm beginning to think this is all about jealousy. It took me a lot of hard work to get to where I am. Do you realize ...

XP: I realize everything. I've got no reason to be jealous.

HHH: Look, 'Pac, if you really feel I'm shafting you with the matches you've been getting, tell me what matches you want, and I'll make them happen.

XP: For starters, how about a title shot of some kind?

HHH: At what?

XP: At this point, anything. I'd just be happy to be wrestling for a strap again.

HHH: Done. Now, in return, how about taking it easy on Steph? She likes you, man. I know I don't spend as much time with the group as I always have, but take my word for it: It's for the good of DX. When you got back here, I told you I'd be there for you. You don't have to worry about my loyalty.

XP: That's what I called to hear. I'm cool with Steph, as long as she knows her place in DX. I've just been frustrated.

HHH: Don't worry about it. We're still tight. I'll see you in a couple of days. We'll grab a few cocktails or something.

XP: Sounds good, man. Sounds real good. □

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Sincerely Yours

(Continued from page 5)

today. Of course, it's possible they would have anyway. Imagine a Justin Credible/Chris Jericho feud. How about a Rob Van Dam/Chris Benoit feud. A Mick Foley/Mike Awesome feud. I could go on and on!

CHURCH WILLARD
Duluth, MN

WAS BIG POPPA PUNKED?

I don't understand why WCW suspended Scott Steiner. With so many of the top guys out with injuries and with Steiner reportedly ready for a return to active competition, it boggles my mind that WCW would suspend one of its most charismatic, attractive, and magnetic personalities.

I know that WCW management wasn't exactly happy with some of Steiner's comments about WCW and the WWF, but he was telling the truth, and you shouldn't ever be punished for telling the truth. After all, I thought this was America.

If WCW is smart, it'll bring back Scott Steiner. He's the best bad guy in the business, and he could be the key to WCW's future. He should have been given a push a long time ago.

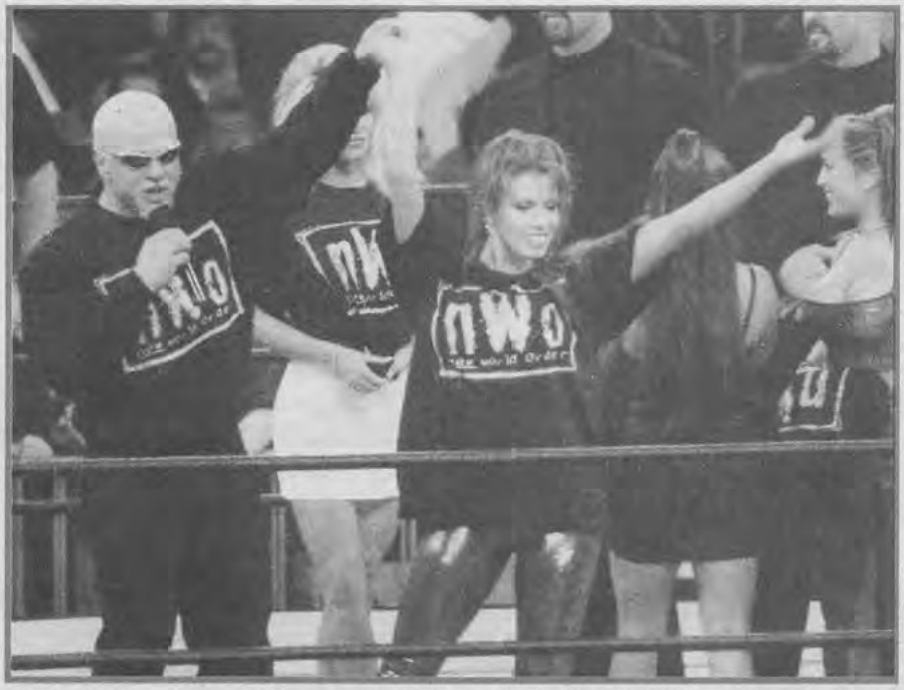
GEORGE MORAN
Bessemer, MI

EVIL AND DEADLY

I'm glad to see that Paul Bearer is back to watch over Kane again. Without Bearer by his side, Kane was taken in by X-Pac, hoodwinked by Tori, and basically made to look like a fool. Now that Bearer is back, though, Kane is no longer going to be the big goof of the WWF.

Let's hope that with Bearer back at his side, Kane will once again jump into the title picture and capture some well-deserved gold. He should be a multiple-time WWF World champ by now, and even though he isn't, I have a feeling he will be soon.

GREG PORTER
Orono, ME □



Scott Steiner shows off one of his ladies. Given all of WCW's problems, reader George Moran thinks suspending Steiner was a mistake on the part of the company.

On The Road

(Continued from page 10)

to claim that he was representing Canadians as the Intercontinental champion, but the crowd would have none of it. Angle won the match, but Jericho got the best of Angle afterward, as the crowd again expressed its delight.

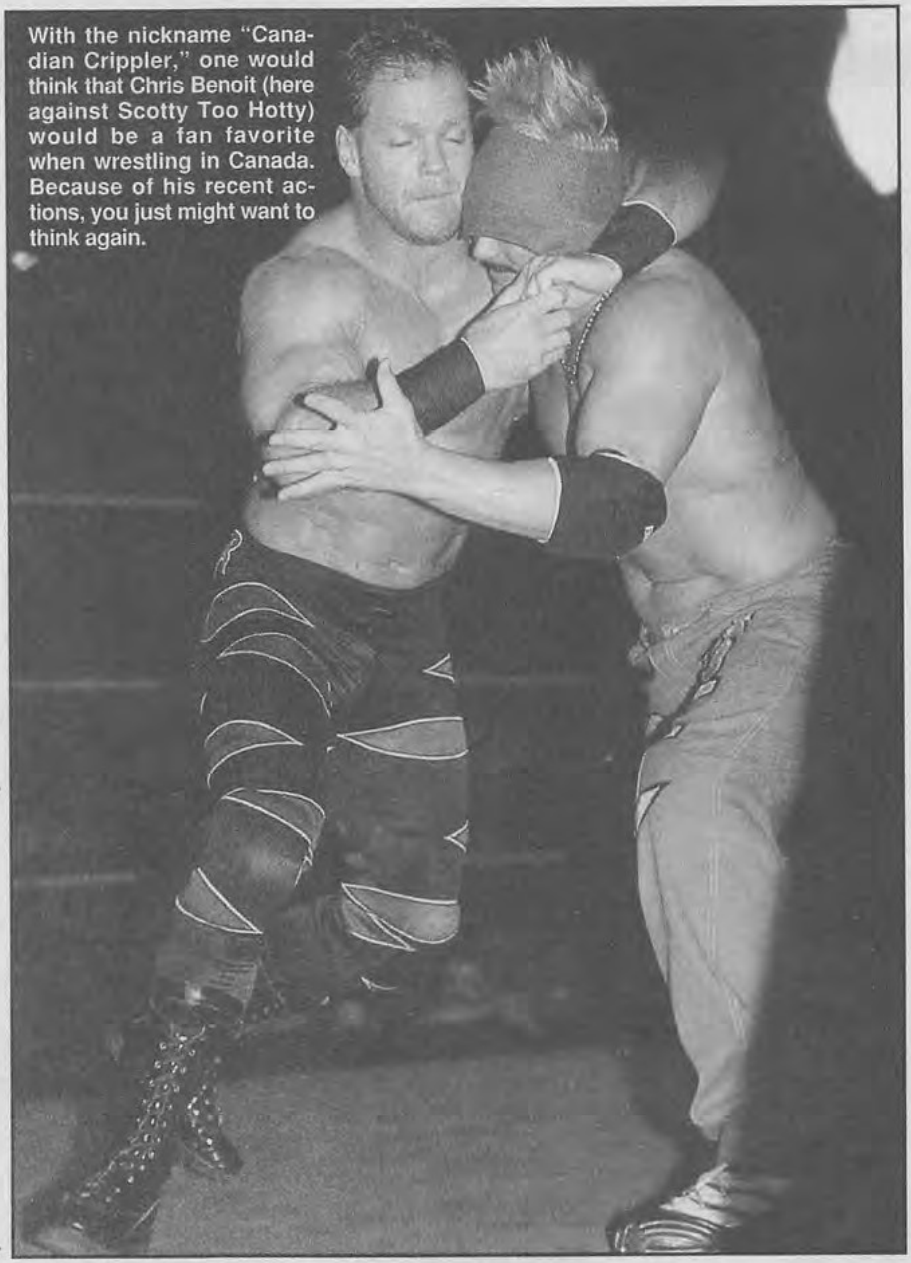
Despite all the cheers for Jericho and Christian and all the boos for Angle and Bossman, the biggest reaction of the night was for The Rock. He's an American (although he did play in the CFL for a year), and the crowd loved him.

More of the same the next night at the Corel Centre in Ottawa. Big Bossman came to the ring with a Canadian flag and said that if he beat Test, he'd wipe his rear end with the flag. The crowd vociferously booed. Bossman didn't seem to mind. Thank goodness (again), Test disposed of Bossman and restored order to what could have been a rather chaotic situation.

More boos for Benoit. More cheers for Jericho. Then it was time for Dudleyville's finest, The Dudley Boyz. Buh Buh Ray came to the ring and expressed his anti-Canadian views, which, of course, prompted their opponents, Edge and Christian, both Ontarians, to come out and defend their home turf. It was the perfect match for these patriotic Canadians: the hometown boys against the Canada-hating Dudley Boyz. Unfortunately, it had the wrong ending: a Dudley victory.

Finally, again, a huge reaction for The Rock, who's by far the biggest star in wrestling no matter where he goes.

The bottom line after viewing these two shows is that the WWF and its wrestlers pay a lot more attention to patriotism when a card is in Canada than when it is in the United States. Attend a house show in the U.S. and you'll rarely here a mention about where a wrestler is from, or whether one country is better than another country. In Canada, it's the main plot line.



With the nickname "Canadian Crippler," one would think that Chris Benoit (here against Scotty Too Hotty) would be a fan favorite when wrestling in Canada. Because of his recent actions, you just might want to think again.

"Let me put it for you this way," said Chris Jericho. "The United States is a superpower. Canada isn't a superpower. We're a smaller country that minds our own business and takes a lot of pride in our accomplishments. We're tired of hearing about the United States all the time. When we can do something better than them, we take a lot of pride in that. It just so happens that the best wrestlers in the world come from Canada."

You can argue about that all you want, and Jericho will argue right back. So will a lot of other Canadian wrestling fans. To them, any time a Canadian athlete and a U.S. athlete go head-to-head, there's local pride on the line. The U.S. is a superpower. Canada would just like to win an occasional battle. □

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Behind The Door

(Continued from page 12)

every now and then, and putting your chips on the life sentence wheel of death doesn't sound like a safe bet to me. I think I would have taken the plea bargain.

But without the benefit of a jury, let me argue what is exactly wrong with introducing The Rock into this case:

1. The Rock has never told his fans to lay the smack down on other people.

2. The Rock has nothing to do with this case.

3. Anybody who has watched pro wrestling over the past five years knows exactly what pro wrestling is all about.

4. What's worse, a person going to jail because he emulated a professional wrestler and murdered a child, or the person not going to jail because he was emulating wrestlers and the message going out to the general public that this kind of behavior is excusable?

5. People who watch auto racing have the sensibility not to drive 200 miles per hour down city streets, people who watch boxing have the sensibility not to punch everyone with whom they disagree, and people who watch sumo wrestling don't put on 400 pounds and start slamming their friends. So why should anyone think that wrestling has such a dramatic effect on children that it causes them to go out and do what wrestlers do?

Pro wrestling has been around for a long time, and people just don't go out and kill people because of what they've seen on TV.

This case, of course, figures to be another black mark for wrestling, especially if The Rock is put on the witness stand and made a scapegoat. What he says will most likely be forgotten. The fact that he was there in the courtroom won't.

Actually, I'm interested in this case for another reason: The Rock is going to be Dwayne Johnson when he takes the witness stand, which means this could be one of only a few chances you'll ever have to hear The Rock not refer to himself as The Rock. Just imagine if he did:

Lawyer: Mr. Johnson, what is your opinion of the violence in professional wrestling?

Johnson: The Rock doesn't think it's a problem.

Lawyer: Well, I think ...

Johnson: It doesn't matter what you think!

Lawyer: But don't you ...

Johnson: Know your role and shut your mouth!

That would be bizarre. But not nearly as bizarre as lawyers blaming the death of a young girl on professional wrestling. □

In the ring, The Rock barks at his opponents like a rabid dog. In the court room, however, The Rock will be replaced by the soft-spoken Dwayne Johnson. How he represents himself will be of the utmost importance.

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(Continued from page 14)

Your average shark won't live long out of water, but Shark Boy is pretty good in the air. He was eliminated from the Super 8 by Chad Collyer, however. If you like good, clean competition—believe it or not, I do (sometimes)—check out the Super 8.

returned to the locker room area following his heartbreaking quarterfinal loss to fellow HWA competitor Chad Collyer. He was out of the tournament and in need of consolation, but instead he found himself staring at a fellow shark.

"Huge loss," Shrader said. "Sorry, man. Better luck next year—if you're invited back."

Soothing words from a brother of the fin. But is it possible for Shrader to remember how it feels to lose in the Super 8 when he hasn't been in the tournament in two years?

"Well, the tournament *is* a big deal," Shrader told me. "These guys come in knowing that they are going up against the best the independents have to offer. They know there are talent scouts in audience. They also know that you guys give more coverage to this than any other indy event all year."

Indeed, that is true. In addition to various columns and a feature story on the winner, the Super 8 Tournament will be included in *Pro Wrestling Illustrated's* August 2000 Supercard issue (on sale May 16).

The Super 8 is the closest North America has to the prestigious Super Junior tournament in Japan. It's the best chance wrestling purists have of seeing a sportsmanlike showcase of competitors they have only read about in magazines. The Super 8 gives these elite indy cruiserweights to shine against each other in matches that only involve grace, wit, and plenty of outstanding technical wrestling. There are no managers and no outside interference allowed. You have to swim on your own or drown. (Can a shark really drown?)

"Of course I'd rather be continuing on in the tournament," said Shark Boy, his fin drooping just a bit in dejection. "But at least I had the chance to be invited. Just getting invited to come here is an honor."

By this time, Shrader was participating in a battle royal to determine a challenger to Ty Street's ECWA Mid-Atlantic title. It was a chance for the ECWA regulars to have their chance for glory. Shrader, of course, is a cruiserweight, but he held his own against some of the larger battle royal participants—men such as Ground Zero, Glen Osbourne, and Ben Stolzfus. Shrader was eliminated about halfway through the match, but it didn't affect his mood. He was still as happy as a guppy in a clean fish bowl.

For what it's worth, Collyer went on to lose in the semifinals of the Super 8 to Scoot Andrews, who lost to "Fallen Angel" Christopher Daniels in the final match. I don't have anything against Collyer, but he *did* eliminate Shark Boy—and he deserved to be punished for that.

As for Shrader and Shark Boy, it was interesting to see two sharks from different schools getting along so well. They may never cross paths again, but they will also never forget the time they swam together. Camaraderie and good sportsmanship is what the Super 8 tournament is all about. Even someone like me can appreciate those things every now and then. □

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March 1992: Who's Winning The Hogan-Flair Wars? Also: Steiners, Survivor Series, Enforcers-Rhodes & Steamboat, Johnny B. Badd.

May 1992: War! WrestleMania Will Be Sid And Hulk's Battleground. Also: Jushin Liger, Eddie Gilbert, Repo Man, Austin-Blossom, Tri-State & UWF.

June 1992: Sting: A New Champion, A New Era. Also: Hulk Hogan, Harley Race, Marcus Bagwell, Tony Atlas, IRS & DiBiase.

July 1992: Is Regaining The WWF Title An Impossible Undertaking? Also: Sherri & Shawn, Big Van Vader, Gordy & Williams, Kamala, Joe Savoldi.

Aug. 1992: The Closer Flair Gets ... The More Savage "Macho Man" Becomes. Also: Jack-Badd, Brian Christopher, LOD & Ellering, Taylor & Valentine, Dusty Wolfe.

Sept. 1992: Hulk Hogan's "Retirement": Why The WWF Will Never Let Him Rest In Peace. Also: War Games, Big Van Vader, Kamala, Marty Jannetty, U.K.

Oct. 1992: SummerSlam '92: Exclusive Preview & Analysis. Also: S. Steiner-Muta, Ron Simmons, Eddie Gilbert, Eric Embry.

Nov. 1992: The Great American Crash: Vader Crushes Sting For The WCW World Title. Also: Ric Flair, Ultimate Warrior, Madusa, Warlord & Barbarian-Bushwhackers, top rope rule.

Dec. 1992: Hey, Ric Flair: Stop Whining And Start Winning. Also: Razor Ramon, Heavenly Bodies, Jeff Jarrett, Windham & D. Rhodes, NWA title.

Jan. 1993 (Special Edition): 80,355 Fans Can't Be Wrong: This Was The Greatest SummerSlam Ever! Also: WWF-USWA, LOD, Sting-Simmons, Bret-Shango, Rude-Dustin.

March 1993: Who Controls The Balance Of Power In The WWF? Also: Shawn Michaels, Nikita Koloff, Windham-Dustin, Survivor Series, Rod Price.

April 1993: New Blood! The Wrestlers Who Could Revitalize The WWF In '93. Also: Z-Man & Gunn, Sting-Vader, Dangerous Alliance, Ric Flair.

May 1993: Exclusive WrestleMania IX Match Analysys. Also: Andre the Giant, Pillman & Austin, Great Muta, Head-shrinkers-Steiners, 2 Cold Scorpio.

Feb. 1994: Our Holiday Wish List For 1994. Also: Hogan-Savage-Bret, Hacksaw Duggan, Doinks, Hollywood Blonds, Steven Regal.

March 1994: *Inside Wrestling* Predicts: What's In Store For '94: Also: Nastys & Missy, Col. Parker, Ludvig Borga, chairs, Survivor Series, Diesel-Michaels.

April 1994 (Special Issue): The *Inside Wrestling* Computer Tournament. Also: Lex Luger, Starrcade, Yoko-Fuji, Ric Flair, Curt Hennig, Funk-Sabu.

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Oct. 1994 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Doink, Vader-Race, Mabel, Dory Funk Jr., Owen-Bret, Hall of Fame.

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Holiday 1997 (Special Issue): The Steiners' Million-Dollar Gamble! Also: 1998 calendar, Alex Wright, The Patriot, Sgt. Slaughter, Turnbuckle Turkey Awards.

March 1998: Hart Transplant! The Truth Behind Bret's Defection To WCW. Also: Steve McMichael, Bam Bam Bigelow, Steve Austin, Disco Inferno.

April 1998 (Special Issue): The 1998 *Inside Wrestling* Computer Tournament. Also: Scott Hall, Marlena, Chris Benoit, Gunn & James, Sabu-Sandman.

May 1998: Is The WWF Screwing Another Hart? Also: Steve Austin, Dallas Page, Booker T, Larry Zbyszko, Al Snow.

June 1998: Exclusive! Steve Austin: The 10 Men Who Inspired His Toughness. Also: Dusty & Dustin, Perry Saturn, Mortis, Jeff Jarrett.

July 1998 (Special Issue): Top Stars Answer Your Personal Questions. Also: Jericho-Misterio Jr., Steve Austin, Sunny, Scott Steiner, Christopher-Michinoku.

Aug. 1998: WrestleMania XIV: The *Real* Winners And Losers. Also: Sunny, Curt Hennig, Dan Severn, Ultimo Dragon.

Sept. 1998: Power Surge! While The NWO Fiddles ... These Men Are Burning. Also: Sable, Ultimo-Guerrero, DeGeneration X-Owen, Rocky Malvia, Mad Russian-Rambo.

Oct. 1998 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Steve Austin, Taka Michinoku, Al Snow, Hollywood Hogan, Roddy Piper, Misawa-Kiwada.

Nov. 1998: Austin vs. Goldberg: Who Would Win And Why. Also: Bret Hart, Dude Love, Junkyard Dog, Helmsley-Michaels, Ray-Booker.

Dec. 1998: DDP's Big Bang Theories: Cutting Loose On Life, Love, & The Ultimate Buzz. Also: Sable-Jackie, Mankind, Hogan-Horace, D-Lo, APW.

Holiday 1998 (Special Issue): Kane: Still Haunted By His Day Of Glory. Also: Eddy Guerrero, Stevie Ray, Val Venis, turnbuckle turkeys, bonus calendar.

Jan. 1999: Seasons Greetings With A Bang (DDP & Kimberly). Also: Severn-Shamrock, Konnan, Am, Undertaker-Kane, Chris Jericho.

Feb. 1999: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For '99! Also: Hogan & Hart, D-Lo, Ken Shamrock, Slaughter-Snow.

March 1999: Estrange Situation! Insider Reveals: "Shane Still Resents His Father! Also: X-Pac, Hogan-Warrior, Jesse Ventura, Billy Kidman, Scott Norton.

April 1999 (Special Issue): The 1999 *Inside Wrestling* Computer Tournament. Also: Bossman-McMahon, Steiner & Bischoff, Hollywood Hogan, Wrath, Blue Meanie.

May 1999: Team Corporate's WrestleMania Scare! Mankind's Title Victory Could Have Spoiled Everything! Also: New Age Outlaws, Eddy Guerrero, Triple-H, Bill Goldberg.

June 1999: Still In-Vince-ible! What Will It Take To Topple This Man? Also: Rey Misterio Jr., ECW, Triple-H, NWO, Blue Meanie.

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Aug. 1999: WrestleMania XV: The *Real* Winners And Losers! Also: Vam Dam-Lynn, Saturn, Goldust, Steiner-Bagwell.

Sept. 1999: Shane, Come Back! Can Vince Survive Without His Son? Also: Bret Hart, Rick Rude, Ken Shamrock, Hogan-Flair-Page-Goldberg, Tairi-Crazy.

Oct. 1999 (Special Issue): WCW Midyear Report. Also: Mankind & Shamrock, Snow-Holly, Sting, Edge, Flair-Robinson, AIWF.

Nov. 1999: Crash At The Bash! Enter Sid, Viciously! Also: Undertaker-Austin, Acolytes, Master P, Debra, Justin Credible.

Dec. 1999: The Rock: What Makes You Love/Hate This Man? Also: Sting, Shane Douglas, Droz, Piper-Bagwell, Taz.

Holiday 1999 (Special Issue): The 1999 Turnbuckle Turkey Awards. Also: Sting, Dogg-Gunn, Undertaker, Steve Corino, 2000 calendar.

Jan. 2000: Dreaming Of An Extreme Christmas (Tommy Dreamer & Francine). Also: Goldberg, Al Snow, Billy Gunn, Doring & Road Kill, cigar-chompers.

Feb. 2000: Wrestling's Top Stars: What's Ahead For 2000! Vince-Bulldog, Mike Awesome, Sid Vicious, Gorilla Monsoon.

March 2000: Kevin Nash & Scott Hall: Getting Inside The Outsiders' Heads. Also: Dudleys, Jerry Lynn, Vince-DX, Kimberly, Zero Gravity.

April 2000 (Special Issue): The Y2K Computer Tournament. Also: Jarrett-PTB, Christopher & Taylor, Lou E. Dangerously, Lawler-Fantastico.

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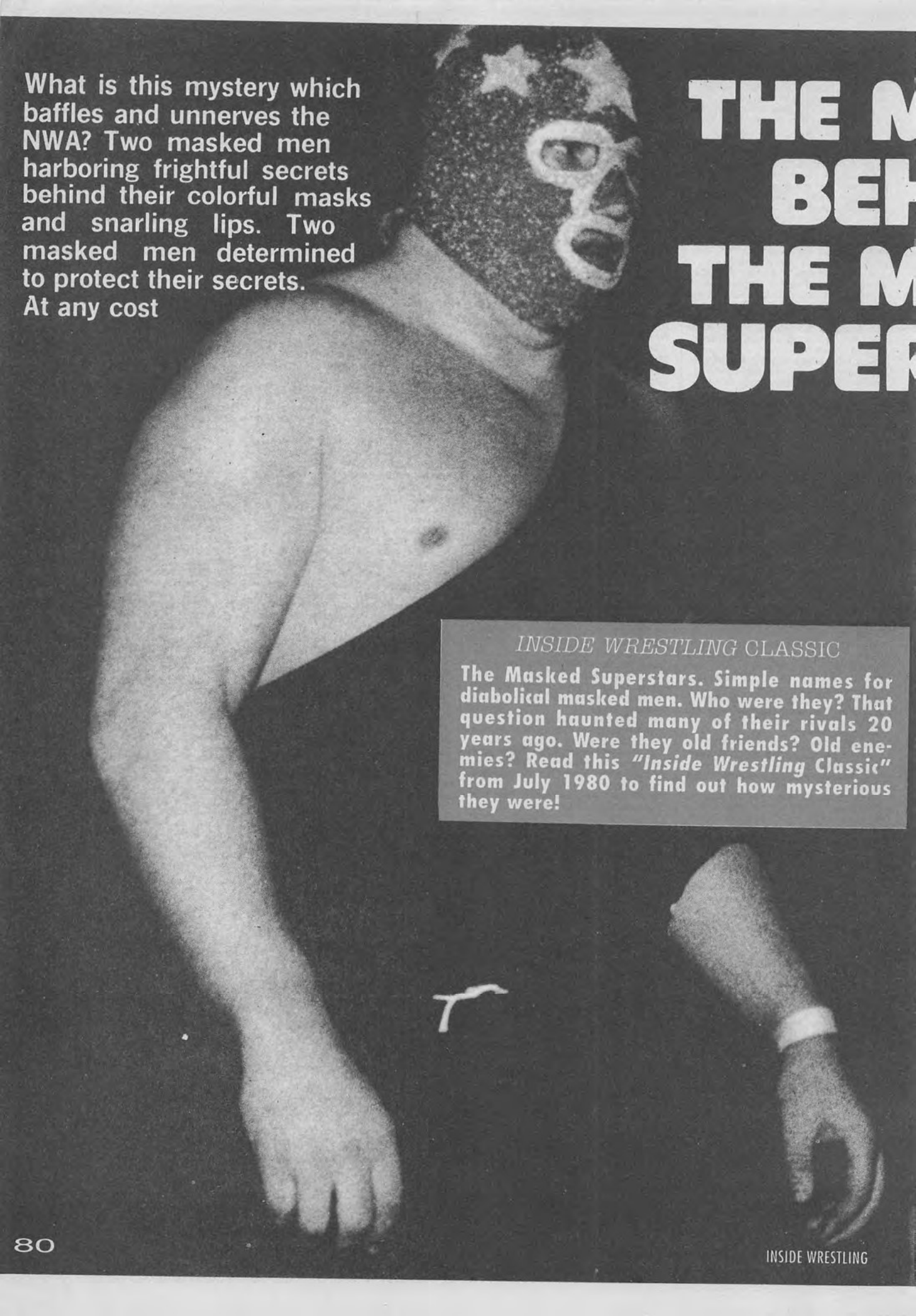

What is this mystery which baffles and unnerves the NWA? Two masked men harboring frightful secrets behind their colorful masks and snarling lips. Two masked men determined to protect their secrets. At any cost

THE M
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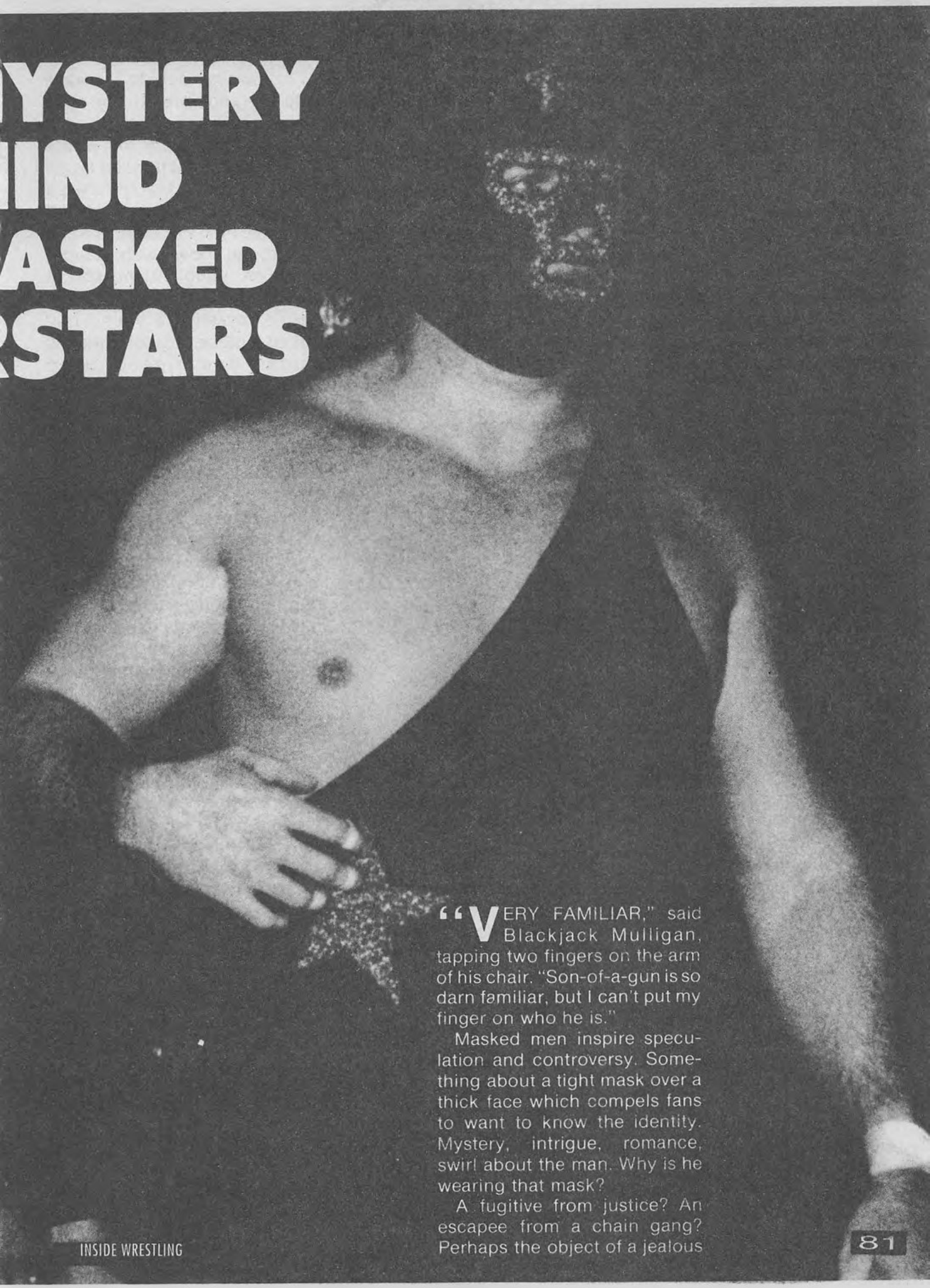
INSIDE WRESTLING CLASSIC

The Masked Superstars. Simple names for diabolical masked men. Who were they? That question haunted many of their rivals 20 years ago. Were they old friends? Old enemies? Read this *"Inside Wrestling* Classic" from July 1980 to find out how mysterious they were!

YSTERY IND ASKED RSTARS



"VERY FAMILIAR," said Blackjack Mulligan, tapping two fingers on the arm of his chair. "Son-of-a-gun is so darn familiar, but I can't put my finger on who he is."

Masked men inspire speculation and controversy. Something about a tight mask over a thick face which compels fans to want to know the identity. Mystery, intrigue, romance, swirl about the man. Why is he wearing that mask?

A fugitive from justice? An escapee from a chain gang? Perhaps the object of a jealous

husband's wrath? A horribly mutilated victim of a train wreck? Or simply, a man whose mental processes are warped, twisted beyond any rational human perception.

A wild-eyed, certifiable maniac. A man like Masked Superstar II?

"I know the guy," said Mulligan, frowning. "I known him. You can't hide wrestling styles."

Mulligan's had a checkered career, breaking into professional wrestling as a rulebreaker until, inspired by Andre the Giant and others, he devoted himself to the rules of scientific wrestling. Along the way, Mulligan befriended both good and bad, called rulebreakers as friends, then enemies.

"Somewhere, I've met him," he insisted.

A man can control his friends, not acquaintances. Whoever this masked man is, wasn't a friend of Mulligan's. Perhaps an acquaintance . . .

Like many bad guys turned good, Mulligan is tormented with guilt over past misconduct. He knows he can never undo the vile actions. He knows fans will always, in some dark corner of their hearts, mistrust him. And he can never fully atone for all the broken legs and fractured arms.

Still, Mulligan tries desperately. Fans love him, peers respect him, commentators accord him attention. However, one particle of the past escapes his frenzied efforts.

Those he befriended, those he advised to break legs, the men he told to use illegal objects, and abuse fans, still come back to haunt him. Mulligan wonders if Masked Superstar II is one of his former friends, one of his former proteges.

After beating Blackjack Mulligan in the corner, Masked Superstar I tags off to Masked Superstar II to resume the attack. Mulligan remains baffled as to Superstar II's identity.

"Everytime I hear about a rulebreaking young guy in an area I once wrestled in, my heart sinks into the pit of my gut," said Mulligan. "I get a queasy, sick feeling and want to lie down in the dark. I feel, and maybe I'm a little crazy, but this is the way I feel, that I'm somehow responsible for them.

"I'm not saying this out of any bragging, for God knows it's nothing to be proud of, but I was a much admired man among young rulebreakers. They'd come to me for advice. What kind of advice? How to conceal a foreign object, how to ruin a man with one quick jab, how to shower vile obscenities on fans, little cute tricks like that.

"I always helped, always listened and offered my sage words of wisdom. Then I'd sit at ringside and watch my words translated into action. I'd laugh when my young friend tossed a foe over the ropes and bashed his skull into the concrete. I'd laugh and howl with delight when my young friend spit at fans in the front row. And I'd be beside myself if a young guy pulled a piece of steel outta his trunks and ripped open a forehead.

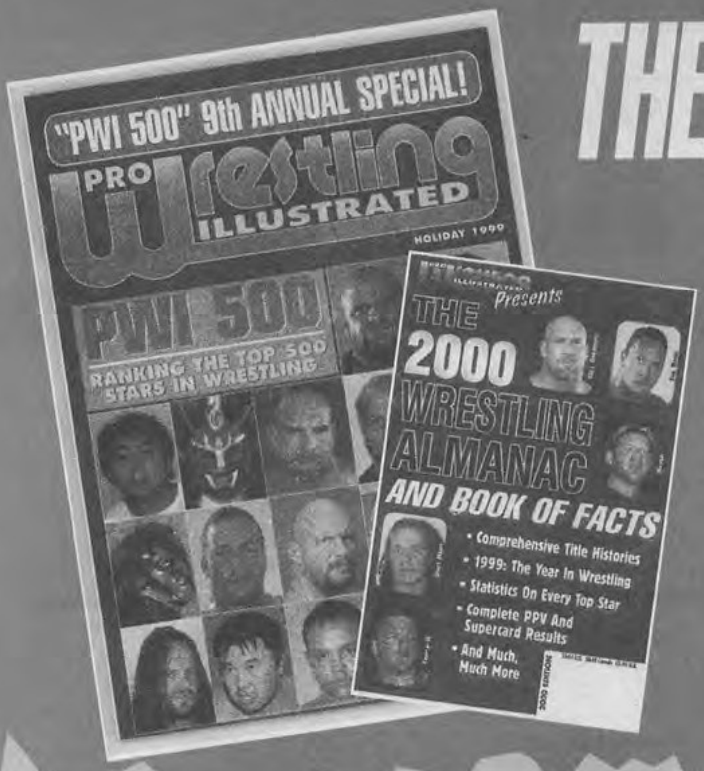
"Ah, I was sick back then, real messed up," said Mulligan, eyes moistening. "Few guys listened when I turned against rulebreaking. Maybe they believed what I'd always said about guys who turned good, that they were lame, cowards, not real men, afraid of mixing up in the ring and taking punishment.

"My own words haunted me. But this Masked Superstar II, I don't know, his manners, his gestures, I wish I could pin his identity down. I know the guy. I didn't hear him speak. But you know when you see a childhood friend or even someone you just went to school with after maybe 15 years? Guy has a beard, pot belly, but something lingers on, a voice, a walk.

"Same in this case. I haven't seen this guy in a while, not in weeks, maybe years. Same walk, same way of wrestling. Just can't determine who the hell he can be. Damned if it doesn't gnaw my insides," Mulligan said, shaking his head.

Masked Superstar II does know Blackjack Mulligan. Or so he says, in this terse, one line interview.

"Tell Mulligan, me and him are old friends. And thank him for all he taught me," he said, laughing maniacally. □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INSIDE WRESTLING'S OFFICIAL RATINGS

TOP 15

1—MIKE AWESOME
(2) ECW World champion
2—SID VICIOUS
(1) WCW World champion
3—KENSUKE SASAKI
(4) IWGP heavyweight champion
4—TRIPLE-H
(3) WWF World champion
5—KENTA KOBASHI
(–) All-Japan Triple Crown champion
6—KURT ANGLE
(11) WWF I-C/European champion
7—JEFF JARRETT
(7) WCW U.S. champion
8—SUPER CRAZY
(–) ECW TV champion
9—THE ROCK
(8) No. 2 contender: WWF World title
10—RIKISHI PHATU
(13) No. 3 contender: WWF World title
11—VAMPIRO
(–) No. 2 contender: WCW World title
12—RHINO
(–) No. 2 contender: ECW World title
13—CHRIS JERICHO
(5) No. 4 contender: WWF World title
14—PERRO AGUAYO
(–) No. 1 contender: AAA heavyweight title
15—LEX LUGER
(–) No. 3 contender: WCW World title

WCW

1—SID VICIOUS
(1) 318, West Memphis, AR
2—JEFF JARRETT
(2) 230, Nashville, TN
3—VAMPIRO
(9) 220, Montreal, Quebec
4—LEX LUGER
(7) 265, Chicago, IL
5—HULK HOGAN
(–) 275, Venice Beach, CA
6—THE ARTIST
(–) 219, Honolulu, HI
7—DUSTIN RHODES
(–) 274, Austin, TX
8—HACKSAW DUGGAN
(15) 280, Glens Falls, NY
9—RIC FLAIR
(5) 243, Charlotte, NC
10—NORMAN SMILEY
(3) 238, London, England
11—BOOKER
(–) 250, Harlem, NY
12—BAM BAM BIGELOW
(–) 288, Mt. Laurel, NJ
13—BILLY KIDMAN
(10) 195, Allentown, PA
14—CURT HENNIG
(–) 235, Minneapolis, MN
15—THE WALL
(–) 320, Ocean Grove, NJ

WWF

1—TRIPLE-H
(1) 279, Greenwich, CT
2—KURT ANGLE
(5) 233, Pittsburgh, PA
3—THE ROCK
(3) 272, Miami, FL
4—RIKISHI PHATU
(6) 401, San Francisco, CA
5—CHRIS JERICHO
(2) 225, Vancouver, British Columbia
6—THE BIG SHOW
(8) 500, Atlanta, GA
7—KANE
(7) 345, parts unknown
8—CHRIS BENOIT
(11) 218, Edmonton, Alberta
9—DEAN MALENKO
(14) 216, Tampa, FL
10—STEVE BLACKMAN
(–) 245, Annville, PA
11—X-PAC
(9) 212, Minneapolis, MN
12—TAZZ
(10) 248, Red Hook, NY
13—CRASH HOLLY
(–) 225, Mobile, AL
14—ESSA RIOS
(–) 217, Guadalajara, Mexico
15—MARK HENRY
(–) 413, Austin, TX

ECW

1—MIKE AWESOME
(1) 285, Tampa, FL
2—SUPER CRAZY
(4) 172, Mexico City, Mexico
3—RHINO
(9) 285, Detroit, MI
4—LITTLE GUIDO
(7) 221, Howard Beach, NY
5—TOMMY DREAMER
(3) 245, Yonkers, NY
6—MASATO TANAKA
(5) 235, Tokyo, Japan
7—THE SANDMAN
(–) 244, Philadelphia, PA
8—SPIKE DUDLEY
(6) 155, Philadelphia, PA
9—YOSHIHIRO TAJIRI
(13) 224, Tokyo, Japan
10—DUSTY RHODES
(–) 311, Austin, TX
11—NEW JACK
(15) 225, Philadelphia, PA
12—ANGEL
(8) 260, Bronx, NY
13—KID KASH
(–) 205, Johnson City, TN
14—RAVEN
(10) 265, Short Hills, NJ
15—GRIMES
(–) 399, Bronx, NY

INTERNATIONAL

1—KENSUKE SASAKI
(1) 233, Tokyo, Japan
2—KENTA KOBASHI
(–) 261, Fukuchiyama, Japan
3—PERRO AGUAYO
(–) 220, Zacatecas, Mexico
4—JUN AKIYAMA
(10) 230, Hiroshima, Japan
5—LATIN LOVER
(7) 190, Monterrey, Mexico
6—JUSHIN LIGER
(4) 206, Hiroshima, Japan
7—UNIVERSO DOS MIL
(3) 240, Mexico City, Mexico
8—MASA CHONO
(6) 235, Tokyo, Japan
9—EL HIJO DEL SANTO
(11) 180, Tulancingo, Mexico
10—NAOYA OGAWA
(12) 286, Tokyo, Japan
11—SCORPIO JR.
(5) 195, Nezahaulcoyotl, Mexico
12—ATSUSHI ONITA
(–) 221, Nagasaki, Japan
13—MITSUHARU MISAWA
(13) 228, Ashikaga, Japan
14—VADER
(2) 450, Denver, CO
15—ATLANTIS
(–) 180, Guadalajara, Mexico

TOP 15 TAG TEAMS

1—BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY
(9) WWF World tag team champions
2—BIG VITO & JOHNNY THE BULL
(2) WCW World tag team champions
3—YUJI NAGATA & MANABU NAKANISHI
(5) IWGP International tag team champions
4—JUSTIN CREDIBLE & LANCE STORM
(4) ECW World tag team champions
5—VADER & STEVE WILLIAMS
(15) All-Japan International tag team champion
6—DON & RON HARRIS
(7) No. 1 contenders: WCW World tag title
7—JEFF & MATT HARDY
(11) No. 1 contenders: WWF World tag title
8—TOMMY DREAMER & MASATO TANAKA
(–) No. 1 contenders: ECW World tag title
9—TAMON HONDA & MASAO INOUE
(–) All-Japan All-Asian tag team champions
10—TOO COOL
(8) No. 2 contenders: WWF World tag title
11—MIKE AWESOME & RAVEN
(–) No. 2 contenders: ECW World tag title
12—DAVID FLAIR & CROWBAR
(12) No. 2 contenders: WCW World tag title
13—CHRISTIAN & EDGE
(6) No. 3 contenders: WWF World tag title
14—BRADSHAW & FAAROOQ
(14) No. 4 contenders: WWF World tag title
15—DANNY DORING & AMISH ROADKILL
(10) No. 3 contenders: ECW World tag title

These ratings are compiled by the editors with the assistance of promoters, wrestlers, and reporters around the country, and are based on won-lost records for the past month, quality of opposition, and the inherent skill of each wrestler. The number in parentheses indicates a wrestler's position in that category last issue; (-) indicates that the wrestler was not rated in that category last issue ... Championships highlighted in bold on the "Roll Call Of Champions" have changed hands since our previous issue ... The information under the championship listing indicates the date that champion won the title, who the former champion was, and where the match took place.

For period ended March 16, 2000

ROLL CALL OF CHAMPIONS

ALL-JAPAN ALL-ASIAN TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: TAMON HONDA & MASAO INOUE
(October 25, 1999; beat Maunakea Mossman & Johnny Smith; Nagaoka, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL CHAMPION: KENTA KOBASHI
(February 27, 2000; from Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: VADER & STEVE WILLIAMS
(February 20, 2000; from Jun Akiyama & Kenta Kobashi; Kobe, Japan)

ALL-JAPAN UNITED NATIONAL CHAMPION: KENTA KOBASHI
(February 27, 2000; from Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

ALL PRO WRESTLING UNIVERSAL CHAMPION: MA'OCH
(March 11, 2000; from Tony Jones; San Leandro, CA)

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
J.J. THE RING CREW GUY
(October 15, 1999; beat Ground Zero; Wilmington, DE)

EAST COAST WRESTLING ASSOCIATION MID-ATLANTIC CHAMPION: TY STREET
(October 15, 1999; beat Vincent Goodnite; Wilmington, DE)

ECW TELEVISION CHAMPION: SUPER CRAZY
(March 12, 2000; beat Rhino in tournament final; Danbury, CT)

ECW WORLD CHAMPION: MIKE AWESOME
(December 23, 1999; from Masato Tanaka; White Plains, NY)

ECW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: JUSTIN CREDIBLE & LANCE STORM
(March 12, 2000; from Mike Awesome & Raven; Danbury, CT)

INDEPENDENT PRO WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: TOM BRANDI
(August 21, 1999; from Cueball Carmichael; Chincoteague, VA)

INDEPENDENT WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
TWIGGY RAMIREZ
(October 9, 1999; from Rik Ratchet; Nutley, NJ)

IWGP HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KENSUKE SASAKI
(January 4, 2000; from Genichiro Tenryu; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP INTERNATIONAL TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: YUJI NAGATA & MANABU NAKANISHI
(August 28, 1999; from Tatsutoshi Goto & Michiyoshi Ohara; Tokyo, Japan)

IWGP JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: JUSHIN LIGER
(December 6, 1999; beat Psicosis; Milwaukee, WI)

IWGP JUNIOR TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: SHINJIRO OTANI & TATSUHITO TAKAIWA
(July 13, 1999; from The Great Sasuke & Jushin Liger; Morioka, Japan)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: ADAM FLASH
(December 5, 1999; from Mikey Whipwreck; Dundalk, MD)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: BRUISER
(December 4, 1999; from Romeo Valentino; Olney, MD)

MARYLAND CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: EARL THE PEARL &
RAMBLIN' RICH
(January 19, 2000; beat Joey Matthews & Christian York and Chad Austin & Jimmy Cicero in three-way dance; Glen Burnie, MD)

NATIONAL WRESTLING ALLIANCE HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: NAOYA OGAWA
(October 2, 1999; from Gary Steele; Thomaston, CT)

NWA NEW ENGLAND HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CURTIS SLAMDAWG
(January 16, 2000; from Knuckles Nelson; Wethersfield, CT)

NWA NORTH AMERICAN CHAMPION: THE COLORADO KID
(December 25, 1999; from Terry Taylor; Nashville, TN)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: KENTA KOBASHI
(February 27, 2000; from Vader; Tokyo, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION JUNIOR HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
YOSHINARI OGAWA
(July 19, 1998; beat Satoru Asako in tournament final; Niigata, Japan)

PACIFIC WRESTLING FEDERATION TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS:
VADER & STEVE WILLIAMS
(February 20, 2000; from Jun Akiyama & Kenta Kobashi; Kobe, Japan)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING AMERICAS CHAMPION: JOE E. LEGEND
(November 6, 1999; from Flash Flanagan; Wind Gap, PA)

PENNSYLVANIA CHAMPIONSHIP WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION:
MICHAEL MODEST
(November 6, 1999; from Glen Osbourne; Wind Gap, PA)

WCW CRUISERWEIGHT CHAMPION: THE ARTIST
(February 20, 2000; beat Lash LeRoux in tournament final; San Francisco, CA)

WCW HARDCORE CHAMPION: THREE COUNT
(February 28, 2000; from Brian Knobs; Minneapolis, MN)

WCW U.S. CHAMPION: JEFF JARRETT
(January 17, 2000; awarded title by Kevin Nash; Columbus, OH)

WCW WORLD CHAMPION: SID VICIOUS
(January 25, 2000; beat Kevin Nash; Las Vegas, NV)

WCW WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BIG VITO & JOHNNY THE BULL
(February 13, 2000; from Don & Ron Harris; Leipzig, Germany)

WWF EUROPEAN CHAMPION: KURT ANGLE
(February 8, 2000; from Val Venis; Austin, TX)

WWF HARDCORE CHAMPION: CRASH HOLLY
(March 13, 2000; from Pete Gas; Newark, NJ)

WWF INTERCONTINENTAL CHAMPION: KURT ANGLE
(February 27, 2000; from Chris Jericho; Hartford, CT)

WWF LIGHT HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: DEAN MALENKO
(March 13, 2000; from Essa Rios; East Rutherford, NJ)

WWF WOMEN'S CHAMPION: JACQUELYN
(February 1, 2000; from Harvey Wippleman; Detroit, MI)

WWF WORLD CHAMPION: TRIPLE-H
(January 3, 2000; from The Big Show; Miami, FL)

WWF WORLD TAG TEAM CHAMPIONS: BUH BUH RAY & D-VON DUDLEY
(February 27, 2000; from Billy Gunn & Jesse James; Hartford, CT)

XTREME PRO WRESTLING HEAVYWEIGHT CHAMPION: CHRIS CANDIDO
(February 26, 2000; from Damien Steele; Hollywood, CA)

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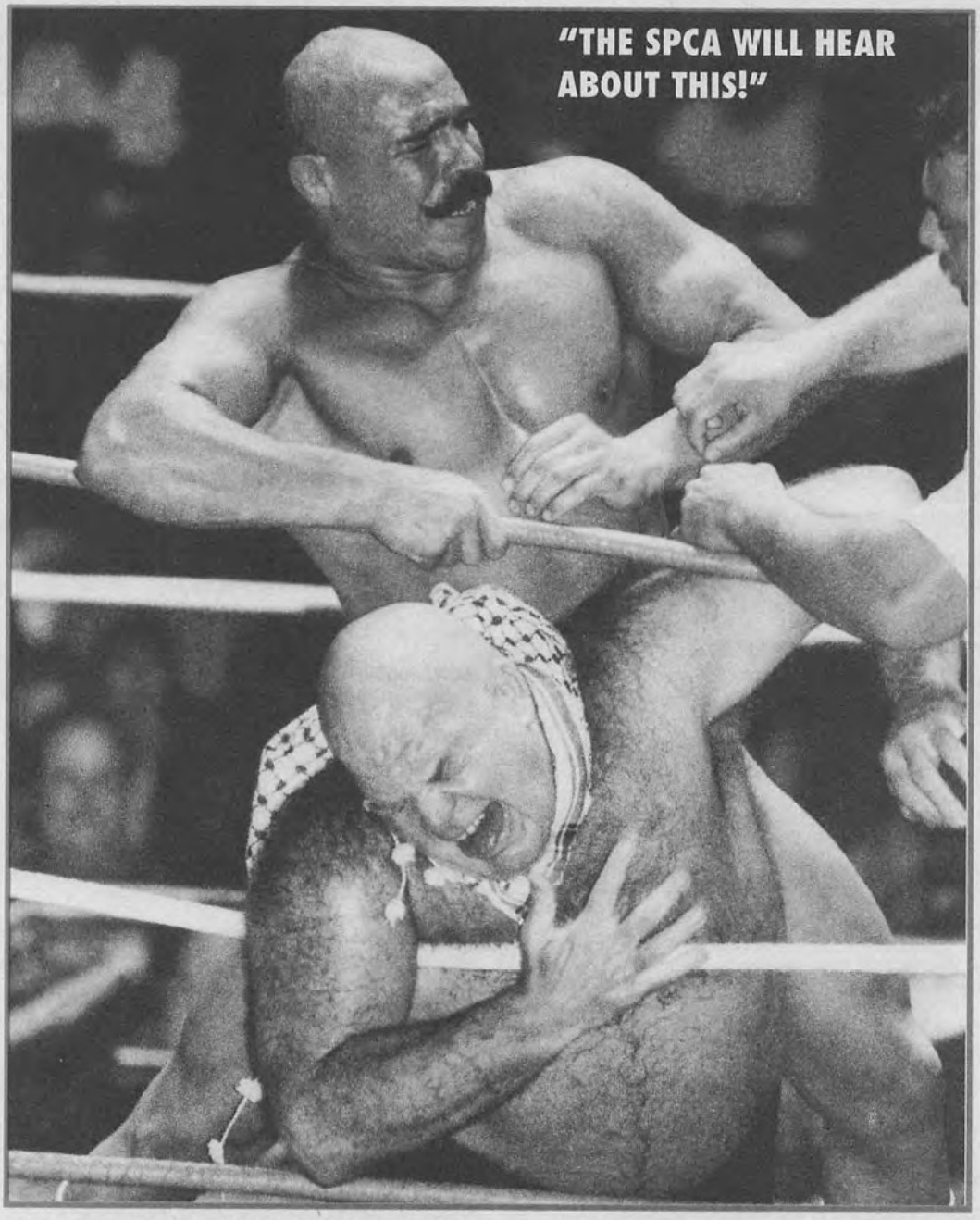
This Month In Wrestling History



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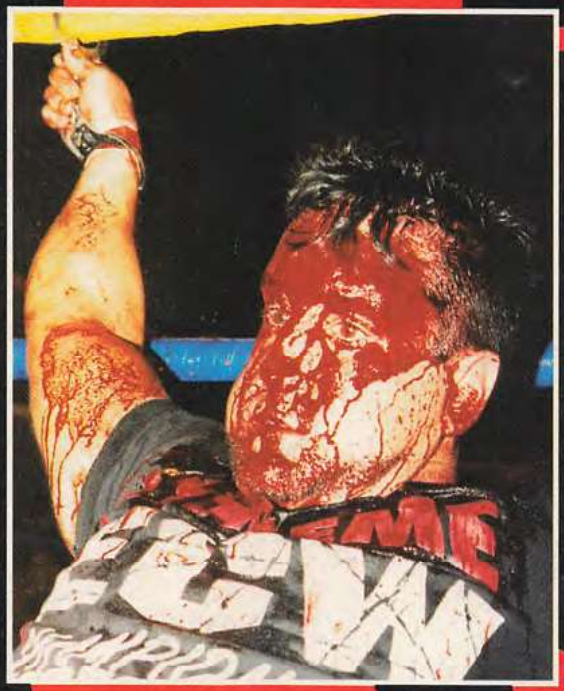

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